Twenty-eighth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 716TH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 12 June 1981, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. ABDULAH (Trinidad and Tobago)

CONTENTS

Other funds and programmes

(a) United Nations Fund for Population Activities

Programme of implementation (continued)

Programme planning and preparation for the third programming cycle, 1982-1986 (continued)

Country and intercountry programmes and projects (continued)

Other matters

(c) Further consideration of the organization of the sessions of the Council (continued)

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OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

(a) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (DP/527, DP/528, DP/529, DP/530; DP/FPA/12 and Add 1-17)

1. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities) said that the current session of the Governing Council was particularly important, since the decisions taken would affect the resources and future operations of UNFPA. He drew attention to UNFPA's annual report (DP/527) in its revised format, and said it was gratifying that, largely as a result of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities for 1980, there had been 23 first-time donors to UNFPA in 1980, bringing the total number for the year to a record 97. The final figure for pledges and contributions for 1980 had been $125.4 million, an increase of 12 per cent over 1979, but that increase had barely covered inflationary costs and had lagged considerably behind UNFPA's total approval authority for 1980 of $138 million. That, combined with the fact that the unallocated resources had been exhausted by the end of 1980, had left very little leeway for meeting new and worthwhile requests for assistance.

2. In 1980, Project allocations had totalled $150.5 million. Final total expenditure had been $147.5 million, and administrative expenditure had amounted to $11.6 million, or 8.8 per cent of total income. The implementation rate had been more than 90 per cent, the highest attained so far, and 393 new projects, amounting to $39.1 million, had been approved. Family planning programmes, at 41.7 per cent, had again absorbed the largest proportion of allocations. Other functional allocations had been basic data collection, 19.2 per cent; communication and education, 11.6 per cent; population dynamics, 11.4 per cent; multisector activities, 8.5 per cent; formulation and evaluation of population policies, 5 per cent; special programmes for women, youth and other groups, 1.6 per cent; and implementation of policies, 1 per cent. Needs assessment missions had been sponsored to 18 countries, making a total of 59 by the end of the year.

Four hundred and thirty-three projects involving 21.2 per cent of total allocations had been directly executed by recipient countries, 112 more than in 1979. Intercountry programmes had received 31.8 per cent of all project allocations, as against 30 per cent in 1979.

3. Owing to increasing resources constraints, ongoing large programmes and projects in a number of non-priority countries, and delays in starting many recently-approved country programmes, allocations to the priority countries, at $43.3 million, had represented only 42.2 per cent of total country programme allocations, compared to 55.6 per cent in 1979, and when the 14 borderline countries were included that figure became 53.7 per cent, as against 65 per cent in 1979. He was confident, however, that those trends would be successfully reversed in the current year and brought into line with past policy directives.

4. UNFPA was arranging with its executing agencies to begin in 1982 reimbursing agency support costs, at the rate of 13 per cent of annual project expenditures set...
by the Governing Council in 1980, as well as phasing out the infrastructure project posts previously funded, in the least disruptive way possible.

5. One significant administrative development in 1980 had been UNFPA's admission in November to membership of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

6. With reference to the programme in 1981 and implications for the future, UNFPA's success, in its first 12 years, in promoting awareness of population problems and of population programmes as vital components of economic and social development had encouraged countries to request assistance to such an extent that the demand had far outstripped the resources available. The short-fall in 1980 of approximately $12 million below the approval authority was expected to increase in 1981 to almost $20 million, about half resulting directly from the wide currency fluctuations of recent months. In the current unfavourable state of the world economy as far as foreign assistance programmes were concerned, those short-falls had created additional programming problems and resource projections, by reason of delays involved in the pledging and payment processes, together with exchange rate fluctuations, were in any case always difficult. In order to respond to that situation, the Fund had carefully followed the directive given to it by the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session, by introducing much more rigorous programme reviews, carefully examining all existing project allocations and, where possible, rephasing allocations to future years, scrutinizing cost estimates carefully for waste, and, most importantly, postponing certain planned activities to future years. Recipient Governments had been most understanding and co-operative, and the rephasing process had afforded some programming manoeuvrability, but it could not continue for long without having an adverse effect on country programmes and projects.

7. The 17 projects and programmes currently before the Council for its approval (DP/FPA/12/Add.1-17) represented only about one third of all the fund-worthy projects over $1 million originally submitted. They included requests for assistance for seven priority countries, three borderline countries and five other countries, in four of which assistance programmes had been initiated before the beginning of the priority system. Also submitted were proposals for the continuation of phase II of the World Fertility Survey and, as earlier agreed to by the Council, for selected major intercountry programmes, to be executed by such agencies as the United Nations Population Division, WHO and ILO. All the submission included the proviso "subject to availability of funds", and since the Fund's resources were actually declining in real terms, it would be possible realistically to implement only a part of the submissions for the period 1982-1985. Allocations for new programmes would be made in accordance with the core programme of assistance and with any Governing Council decisions on the role of UNFPA in the 1980s. It might not be possible to finance major new programmes in countries requesting assistance for the first time, and there might be only partial funding available for the continuation of major programmes in several priority countries which were due to reach completion in the period 1982-1985.

8. He drew attention to Document DP/529, containing the Work Plan and the Request for Approval Authority, and observed that at the twenty-seventh session of the Council, UNFPA had presented a Work Plan based on total income over the period
1981-1984 of $791 million, requiring an income of $159 million in 1981. That estimate had twice had to be revised downwards, so that the document before the Council showed income of only $131 million for 1981 and total resources of $735 million for the period 1982-1985.

9. The work plan for 1982-1985 was based on a 12 per cent increase in new resources from 1981 to 1982, followed by an increase of 53 per cent from 1982 to 1985, at the rate of 15 per cent per year; a more realistic estimate, however, would be 12 per cent per year, while anything less than that would mean a decline, in real terms, in programming. In absolute terms, of course, the sums involved were small: $16 million for 1982, $23 million for 1983 and $25 million for 1984.

10. Even assuming that the increase targets for the period in question were met, parts of many of the multiyear country programmes already approved, or due to be approved at the current Council session, would have to be rephased over one or two additional years. In order to enable UNFPA to be fair in its treatment of all recipient countries, with regard, inter alia, to the launching of new programmes and initiatives of a special nature where possible, the Council at its current session should agree to allow it the flexibility to make programme adjustments in the course of its work.

11. In view of its current estimate of resources for 1982 at $147 million, UNFPA was requesting the same approval authority for that year as had been given for 1981, as well as an additional approval authority of $36.75 million for 1983, bringing the total thus far requested for 1983 to $110.25 million, as against an estimate of $170 million in resources.

12. Taking into account the recommendation made by the Council at its twenty-seventh session, he suggested that a target of 25 per cent of annual pledges should be established for the UNDP operational reserve, to be met by the Fund by the end of the next four-year work plan. To ensure that the desired level was reached during that period, the Fund would have to set aside a yearly amount out of its annual income from contributions. He accordingly appealed to all donor Governments to increase their annual pledges so that the increase in the operational reserve could be made without detriment to the Fund's programme.

13. The report on the future role of the Fund (DP/530), prepared at the Council's request, focused on the directions and programme strategies UNFPA might adopt for the 1980s, and was the result of an internal assessment of the policies and operations of the Fund, together with informal consultations with executing organizations and Council members on their perceptions of future needs in the population field.

14. The challenges of future population problems were serious and wide-ranging. A flexible interpretation of its mandate should permit the Fund to respond to changing needs, but, given the growing demand for assistance, and limited resources, it was necessary to concentrate on a few goals, as outlined in paragraphs 4-27 of the report.
15. To enable UNFPA to concentrate resources on countries with the most urgent population problems, it was proposed that the priority country system approved by the Council in January 1977 should be updated to take into account recent changes in demographic and economic conditions in the developing countries. Of the five alternatives outlined in the annex to the report, alternative four, involving a group of 46 priority countries, was recommended, on the understanding that updating would not result in any sudden withdrawal of support, and that commitments would be fulfilled. The priority system should be revised or updated every five years, but without undue disruption to the programme.

16. The Council's guidance was requested in clarifying certain aspects of the Fund's core programme of support which, although within its mandate, had not thus far been very prominent. Those aspects involved activities relating to population redistribution and migration, the advancement of women in population and development, and changing age structures, in so far as such activities fell within the general framework of national population plans and policies.

17. The shifts in emphasis among and within major programme areas proposed would enable UNFPA to channel its resources towards filling the most urgent gaps, particularly in areas where other sources of assistance were less active. Its general intention was to promote a more broad-based, multisectoral approach in which needs assessment exercises would continue to be a very effective programming tool.

18. In order to develop the self-reliance of countries, UNFPA intended to place a time-limit on its support for certain project components, beyond which the recipient Government or organization would take over and continue the activities concerned.

19. Support at the intercountry level would in future be planned to focus on only the best major programmes, those which would continue most effectively to respond to population problems at the country level and, to ensure that such programmes were flexible enough to respond to those problems, it was recommended that a range of between approximately 25 and 30 per cent of total programme resources should be established as the future level of intercountry support. The Council's views on the document were necessary to guide the Fund's future programme.

20. At its 1981 session the Population Commission had recommended to the Economic and Social Council that a World Population Conference should be held in 1984, with the main purpose of reviewing the implementation to date of the World Population Plan of Action and of determining the action required to make the integration of population and development more effective. UNFPA strongly supported the holding of the Conference; if the Economic and Social Council adopted the recommendation, the Fund would, as requested by the Population Commission, assume a significant role in organizing the Conference, and also, naturally, report to the Governing Council at its twenty-ninth session on the details of the financing of the Conference. It was currently believed that if savings were made by using the staff of the United Nations Population Division and UNFPA as a secretariat and dispensing with a Secretary-General, only $1.5 million would be sufficient. Those funds could be...
allocated in the following manner: $400,000 in 1982, $500,000 in 1983 and $600,000 in 1984, and would probably be drawn from additional contributions rather than from the regular UNFPA budget. The Council's views would be helpful, and would enable the Fund to respond to the questions which were sure to be raised at the July session of the Economic and Social Council.

21. The fourth yearly state of world population report appeared as the first chapter of the printed version of the Fund's report. Its major thrust was a discussion of world population growth and its implications for the future. For example, using United Nations medium variant projections, and assuming that it was possible to sustain the tempo of current population programmes, stabilization appeared feasible at 10.5 billion in the year 2110. Of that 10.5 billion, 9.1 billion would be living in developing countries, with the poorest regions — Africa and South Asia — accounting for more than 60 per cent. As long as imbalances created by poverty, malnutrition or ill health persisted, the social tensions arising out of population pressures would permeate every aspect of life on earth. Consequently, a renewed international effort to stabilize world population as early as possible and at the lowest possible level was imperative. That had been the basic message of the International Conference on Family Planning in the 1980s, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in April 1981, which had stressed the need to increase expenditure in developing countries from the current annual estimate of $1 billion to approximately $3 billion. There were a number of measures which could contribute to the demographic transition from high to low birth rates; it was possible to hasten that transition in the less developed countries, but it would require continued efforts to integrate population and development planning.

22. Population was one of the most urgent of the global issues to be faced in the next hundred years. It was also the one area in which success, beyond all expectations, had been achieved in a relatively short time, owing largely to the work of the United Nations system. The international community could not afford to abandon the advances made by the developing countries towards stabilizing the world population; on the contrary, continued perception of the problem and commitment to solving it by all countries was essential.
international co-operation. His delegation was impressed by the considerable improvement in UNDP planning and project execution and welcomed the successes the Programme had achieved during the past year, a period in which its technical co-operation activities had involved 150 countries. The resources spent on programme and project implementation in 1980 had amounted to $676.2 million, a 23 per cent increase over 1979. The increases in expert services and in equipment reflected the scope of UNDP activities in furtherance of the objectives of development.

24. His Government fully supported the assistance given under the Programme to the national liberation movements and the Palestinian people. It believed that the assistance programme should be expanded and made even more effective.

25. Some progress had been made in using for technical assistance purposes all the resources of the Programme, including contributions in non-convertible currencies. The Administrator deserved commendation in that regard. Although encouraging, the results to date were not fully satisfactory. They showed, however, that all such resources could be used if the administration genuinely wished to use them. The joint measures taken by his Government and UNDP had yielded positive results in the use of available resources. In that connexion, the UNDP Geneva office had shown great initiative.

26. On the eve of the third programming cycle, the question of enhancing the effectiveness of UNDP's activities assumed particular importance, especially as the emphasis was currently on technical co-operation in implementing the International Development Strategy. UNDP must be prepared to assume the key role that it would continue to have in international co-operation.

27. While UNDP's performance over the past year had been commendable, there were still some problems to be solved. The Programme was based on the principle of universal and voluntary co-operation, which meant that in extending technical assistance, UNDP should draw on experience and expertise from all sources and from countries with different socio-economic systems. It was regrettable that the practice of entrusting project execution activities to a few market-economy countries was continuing. The situation had not improved in 1980. As tables 3, 4, 5 and 7 of document DP/S11 showed, in 1980 three developed countries had provided 32 per cent of the experts; over 55 per cent of the equipment for UNDP project had been purchased from five countries; 37 per cent of the subcontracts had been awarded to contractors in two countries; 35 per cent of the fellowships had been taken up in three countries. Not enough was being done to allow the developing countries to benefit by the considerable experience of the socialist countries in the technical assistance area. UNDP and the executing agencies must take more energetic and practical measures to ensure a more equitable involvement of countries in technical co-operation activities.

28. The question of the criteria for the allocation of UNDP resources had been settled at the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council. As indicated in
paragraph 1 (a) of decision 80/30, 80 per cent of the total amount available for country IFPs would be allocated to countries with per capita GNP of up to $500. Document DP/519 gave the estimated available UNDP resources for the third programming cycle and dealt with resource allocation. His delegation shared the Administrator's concern over the deficit and the negative effect it would have on UNDP activities. Programming during the first year of the third cycle should be on the basis of 80 per cent of the IFPs indicated in decision 80/30, subject to subsequent adjustments. That would allow the country programmes to get off the ground. Normally execution during the first year of the cycle was considerably behind schedule.

29. Another important aspect of the preparations for the third programming cycle concerned the policies and procedures for the country and regional programmes and projects. His delegation supported the amendments proposed by the Administrator with a view to simplifying and improving the programming procedures. Such a process must, as far as possible, be consistent with the needs of the various countries. The provisions of the Consensus of 1970 and General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) should be the main guidelines for UNDP activities. The Governments of the various countries should have a decisive role in setting priorities for the use of UNDP resources and should be involved in programme management and implementation, together with UNDP and the executing agencies. His delegation fully supported the simplification of country programme documents.

30. Bulgaria was engaged in fruitful co-operation with UNDP and with the General Office. The national programme for the period 1977-1981 was being successfully implemented; the projects executed with UNDP assistance would be useful to the developing countries, which stood to benefit from the results obtained. Some of the completed projects involved co-operation with centres and institutes in the developing countries.

31. At the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council, his delegation had expressed disagreement concerning the use of statistical data on per capita GNP published by the World Bank when IFPs were being determined. As the Bank itself recognized, such data were mere guidelines; they were not comparable with the data which were published for other members of the Bank and calculated according to a radically different methodology. His delegation felt that the provisions of paragraph 5 of Council decision 80/30 should be applied. The Administrator should determine and use the best estimates available, taking into account estimates provided to the Statistical Office of the Secretariat as well as from other reliable sources.

37. The question was one of principle. UNDP was a universal organization founded on the principle of equal treatment for all countries. His delegation hoped that the UNDP administration would reconsider its position and take an equitable decision in conformity with its mandate.
33. Mr. GÖRCE (Turkey) said that most countries were engaged in the very difficult task of economic development, a task made even more difficult by the structural disequilibrium of the world economy and the many economic constraints facing developing and developed countries alike. Little progress had been made to date in the many negotiations initiated with a view to finding ways of overcoming the mounting difficulties. There had been suggestions that the aims of development should be entirely redefined, that first the poorest segments of the world's population should be given relief and that there should be at least an emergency programme for survival. However, a strategy that could lead to real progress towards the creation of a new and equitable world economic order was yet to come.

34. At no time had the economic interdependence among nations been more evident and at no time had there been greater need for the formulation of collective policies and the reformulation of established rules of conduct. The time had come to promote international co-operation activities throughout the world and establish more effective mechanisms. Turkey believed that such effective international co-operation would contribute to the creation of a more appropriate and equitable pattern of international economic relations.

35. The Administrator had drawn attention to a number of important questions. He had stated that despite the advances made by the developing countries over the past decade, more people were currently living in absolute poverty than at the beginning of the 1970s. He had also stated that by 1985 the increase in the annual income of the poorest countries was likely to be merely $50 per capita over their 1965 income. UNDP found itself unable to meet the targets set for the third programming cycle because of low resource mobilization and allocation, high inflation and fluctuating exchange rates. If the development process was to move ahead, resources would have to be mobilized on a predictable, continuous and assured basis.

36. Much had been said about the need to keep pace with increasing demands for food, energy, water and other resources, about the primary responsibility of the developing countries for working out acceptable solutions to their development problems, about the duty of the wealthier nations to continue offering technical assistance and additional resources, and about the key role which UNDP should continue to play in that effort. What had not been said was how all that would be achieved with the inadequate financial resources available. At the current session, the Governing Council must first be realistic and then, in all sincerity, try to dispose of existing contradictions. It must help UNDP and participating countries to find ways of adapting to the changes of the times. In that context, Turkey welcomed many of the initiatives introduced by UNDP and individual Governments.

37. There were several areas in which constructive measures could be taken by the Governing Council. In the first place, inasmuch as the key issue before it at the current session was how to find resources commensurate with the expectations embodied in decision 50/30, it would be a negative approach to begin by suggesting that the projections in the third cycle were over-estimated. The Council had decided on a "forward planning" allocation of resources for 1982-1986, which was based on an assumed overall average annual growth of voluntary contributions of at least 14 per cent. The Administrator had had consultations with Governments with a...
view to making as realistic an estimate as possible of the actual resources likely
to be available for the third cycle. Turkey understood that those consultations and
estimates had been made by the Administrator in a realistic way and was disappointed
that a number of Governments did not fully share the Administrator's views. On the
other hand, his delegation was impressed that the over-all estimate of third cycle
resources of $5.1 billion included a provisional estimate of possible contributions
from the Gulf Arab Development Foundation for the United Nations. Turkey believed
that such action was fully consistent with the spirit of decision 80/30 and with the
mandate given by the General Assembly to UNDP to strengthen the self-reliance of
developing countries.

38. His delegation hoped that the financial difficulties of the third cycle would
be overcome, that there would be no considerable reduction in the programme levels
envisioned for the cycle and that there would be no across-the-board adjustments in
the IDPs of all countries. Such adjustments would impair confidence in United
Nations development assistance. UNDP should continue to plan according to the
figures indicated in decision 80/30. As appropriate, a cautious approach should be
taken by the UNDP administration. Two thirds of the UNDP administrative budget
related to field costs. One third of UNDP field office activities did not relate
directly to the Programme. Administrative economies could be achieved through the
integration of the operational activities of the specialized agencies with those of
UNDP. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the emerging trend of designating
UNDP resident representatives as resident co-ordinators of the United Nations system.

39. His Government was concerned over the accumulation by UNDP of non-convertible
currencies. It urged those countries whose currencies were accumulating to make a
serious effort, if they were committed to alleviating the problems of developing
countries, to ensure that their currencies were capable of being utilized by UNDP.

40. His delegation shared the Administrator's views regarding special purpose funds
and did not favour the establishment of any additional machinery to administer any
new funds that might be created. UNDP had done a creditable job, for example, in
administering the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, and it
should continue its management in that area. That line of approach also concurred
with the concept of UNDP as the central funding body for technical co-operation in
the United Nations system, a concept endorsed by the General Assembly. Moreover,
the establishment of separate machinery for special funds would result in increasing
administrative costs. It would therefore be practical to have special funds use
UNDP's common administrative services under the control and authority of the
Administrator. Savings to the system in overhead costs would release financial
resources for increased allocations to developing countries. Furthermore, UNDP
could provide effective monitoring and supervisory functions. The main issue was
the strengthening of those special funds through additional resources, rather than
whether or not new mechanisms should be established to administer them.

41. Turkey endorsed UNDP's emphasis on human and institutional development in
recipient countries. It had learnt from the past that sound institutions and
adequate training were essential to equitable economic and political development. It had also learnt that institution-building and training increased the absorptive capacity for foreign assistance. UNDP should encourage recipient countries which had the potential to provide experts in different areas to establish national recruitment committees. In that context, the executing agencies of UNDP should review their rosters and make job descriptions available to all national recruitment committees, as suggested by the representative of Argentina.

42. Adequate training skills and employment opportunities must be provided for the estimated 45 million new workers who would be entering the labour force in poor countries every year for the next 10 years. The increase in the number of young people in the developing countries created urgent new demands for educational facilities, trained teachers, institutional equipment and material. Such demands would put a strain on development resources throughout the developing world. Efforts should be made to ensure that national policy-makers and the mass media better understood the implications of arguments on international economic and technical co-operation. UNDP had a special responsibility to promote a better understanding of development problems and the generation of new ideas and possible solutions. His delegation therefore supported the proposal by the representative of the Gambia concerning the establishment, on an experimental and small-scale basis, and under the UNDP umbrella, of a study programme for development issues. The results of such a programme might assist the Governing Council in its consideration of policy issues related to the operational activities carried out by funds and programmes under its supervision. His delegation also supported the Administrator’s proposals regarding the streamlining and rationalization of the work of the Governing Council, as contained in document DP/562.

43. Turkey welcomed the Administrator’s proposed rates of increase for population programmes. It fully supported UNFPA’s request for approval of the continuation of the World Fertility Survey programme. The Turkish fertility survey had been undertaken in collaboration with the UNFPA programme, which had the particular concentration of knowledge and expertise for the necessary continuing technical assistance.

44. His delegation endorsed the steps taken by UNDP to integrate evaluation into the project cycle. Evaluation would make it possible to learn from past experience and to channel funds to projects with the greatest potential. It was essential to think seriously about ways of making the best use of UNDP’s non-financial resources as well. UNDP had an extensive field staff with first-hand knowledge of each country, its institutions, traditions and economic situation. It was well qualified to carry out pre-investment work, preparing the way for financial decisions by other organizations. His delegation agreed that the Administrator should encourage the resident representatives to put even more emphasis on pre-investment activities.

45. Turkey strongly supported the concept of technical co-operation among developing countries. It supported the decision to integrate that theme into regular meetings of the Governing Council. Under the TÖRPED scheme, initiated in Turkey four years earlier, nationals living abroad were brought back to their country of origin for short consultancies under the UNDP umbrella. That experience
had catalysed similar programmes in a dozen other developing countries. Such innovative measures were increasingly needed to make effective transfers of know-how.

46. UNDP was in a unique position to co-ordinate the efforts of other donor agencies operating in particular countries and played an important and complementary role in relation to other programmes. In some cases, therefore, UNDP could be encouraged to explore co-financing arrangements with other donor agencies.

47. As the Administrator had stated, the Governing Council had always been unique in facing squarely every critical, complicated and sometimes divisive subject presented to it. In the spirit of mutual respect and goodwill, it had always resolved the issues by consensus. Turkey supported the Administrator's appeal to traditional donors, Governments which had hitherto made only modest contributions to the Programme and developing countries themselves to resolve to increase their contributions so that the urgent needs of the developing countries could be met.

48. Mr. CORREA DA COSTA (Brazil) said that decision 80/30 indicated that there had been a shift of emphasis in favour of the least-developed countries which was wholeheartedly supported by the international community. It provided for the channelling of 80 per cent of available resources to countries with low per capita GDPs and had been based on certain expectations regarding an adequate increase in these resources. Many developing countries had had to abandon their legitimate hopes for nominal increases in their IFFs in order to comply with the expectations of the least developed countries. Latin America had been most seriously affected, but had gone along with the consensus, despite the importance it attached to UNDP country programmes. Its support for the agreement showed that the countries of the region were willing to work with other developing countries and to make any necessary sacrifice in order to support relevant measures to achieve collective self-reliance. The developed market-economy countries had also strongly defended a new distributional IFF structure benefitting the least developed countries. Therefore, it would be only reasonable to expect the major donors to accept their share of the responsibility for the full implementation of decision 80/30. According to the Administrator, however, the technical co-operation delivery base would probably be reduced to 73 per cent of expected IFF expenditures, and the third cycle would probably deliver, in real terms, 12 per cent less than the second cycle.

49. The low level of contributions pledged seemed to imply that the donor countries did not believe in the least develops countries' capacity to absorb significantly increased technical co-operation programmes, and that they lacked the political will to support a multilateral mechanism which had provided efficient co-operation for the entire developing world in areas of vital importance for social and economic progress.

50. His delegation was convinced that technical co-operation programmes were extremely important if understanding and the strengthening of relations between all countries of the world were to be achieved. In that area, UNDP was the most important central organization and must be sustained by the entire international
community. Of particular concern were the increasing number of field contributions through which developed countries gave priority to specific areas, thus bypassing the principle of government autonomy in establishing priorities and selecting projects for technical co-operation. UNDP must not become an instrument of technical co-operation for bilateral policies on behalf of any individual country. His delegation would support co-financing arrangements which contributed to the more efficient implementation of specific projects and programmes, provided that the principle of governmental authority in the preparation of each country's own programmes was preserved and the necessary level of financial resources for the third cycle was reached.

51. Although the prevailing world economic and financial situation had severely affected countries at all levels of development, it had penalised the developing world the most, particularly the medium-income countries which were implementing comprehensive programmes of economic and social development. Nevertheless, those countries had not failed to give UNDP their full support. The Latin American answer to UNDP's problems involved an increase in contributions, the co-financing of programmes and projects and a genuine effort to reach net contributor status whenever possible. The other developing regions of the world had also stressed their commitment to UNDP, and many developing countries were prepared to make a major contribution to it. It was obvious, however, that the developing world could not by itself furnish the cure for UNDP's financial situation.

52. Many delegations from the industrialized countries had pledged their support for the common effort to foster economic and social development through technical co-operation. His delegation therefore found it difficult to believe that the international community was willing to run the risk of a drastic slow-down in current and future activities, and was convinced that in years to come the major donor countries would reconsider their current position. Accordingly, his delegation wished to suggest the following course of action. The programme for the third cycle should be left unchanged for the present. Renewed consultations with the major donors should be undertaken in order to reassess their position, and a full account of that reassessment should be transmitted to all Governments as soon as possible. In close consultation with the other agencies involved, the UNDP administration should devise ways and means of curtailing expenditures, including the reduction of overhead payments to those agencies. Finally, within the UNDP structure, additional efforts should be made to rationalize procedures in order to reduce operational costs without affecting field programmes. In implementing all those suggestions, the Administrator should bear in mind that the desired objective was the maintenance of a viable and meaningful programme delivery for the third cycle. In that connexion, he commended the Administrator's efforts to rationalize UNDP's operational structure and fully endorsed the suggestion in Document DP/515 to cut new thematic evaluation studies. The relevance of such studies to the developing countries was doubtful, since their approach was very general and they usually did not make practical suggestions. In a period of scarce financial resources, UNDP should be concerned primarily with the promotion of operational activities.
reasons could be found for establishing such separate channels to meet specific sectoral or geographical needs. In recognition of that fact, Austria had become one of the main contributors to the United Nations Industrial Development Fund and the United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology, and had voted in favour of the establishment of the Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries. It would continue to judge each case on its merits, in the light of the Administrator's offer to provide the administrative framework for special funds, based on UNDP's expertise and managerial capacity. However, the management of such funds should not be allowed to divert UNDP from its main function, which was the provision of technical assistance with a pre-investment orientation. UNDP should not become an organization dedicated to research, and its activities should not overlap with those of the World Bank and the regional development banks beyond the clearly defined tasks of the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

59. Decision 80/30 stood out as an example of international solidarity in so far as its provisions for the utilization of available funds during the third cycle were concerned. On the supply side, however, the compromise contained in that decision was considerably weaker. It was based on an artificial growth target which was interpreted differently by different delegations. Many of the traditional donors, including Austria, had specified that they regarded the 14 per cent target as an over-all growth rate to be achieved partly through their own efforts and partly through the tapping of new resources. Furthermore, legal provisions in those countries made it impossible for them to enter into binding multi-year commitments. Finally, the 14 per cent growth target had been based on exchange rates prevailing more than a year previously. Dramatic shifts in those exchange rates had made it appear as if a new currency were suddenly being used. At least one third of the short-fall could, in his opinion, be ascribed to that cause. Nevertheless, the short- and medium-term funding problems should be neither dramatized nor played down.

60. In his delegation's view, those problems could be overcome only by a group of concerted measures, including the following. Resources from non-traditional donors, especially the capital-surplus developing countries, should be fully mobilized. All recipient countries able to do so should make renewed efforts to reach net contributor status as soon as possible, in order to free resources for use in the neediest regions and countries. Full use should be made of the increased purchasing power of available resources denominated in United States dollars, and interest accruing to accounts held in that currency should be maximized. To that end, donor Governments must not withhold their contributions until the end of the budgetary period for which they were pledged. Administrative expenditure, especially at Headquarters, should be frozen and reduced wherever possible through rigorous control of documentation, a reduction in consultancy services and at least a temporary freeze on new posts at all levels. All possibilities should be explored with regard to at least partial refunding out of the United Nations regular budget of the expenses of resident representatives not directly related to programmes, or reimbursement for the services they rendered to specialized agencies. A solution to the problem of accumulating amounts of non-convertible currencies had to be found; it must respect the voluntary nature of contributions, but still assure the fullest possible utilization of those funds for the benefit of developing countries.
53. Continuous programming, as suggested in document DP/518, would improve the management of technical co-operation activities. The success of such an approach would depend mainly on the support and active participation of Governments. Similarly, the suggestion for country programmes would facilitate the processing and approval by the Council of country programmes and might reduce operational costs. Accordingly, he supported the Administrator's proposals on the matter, but suggested that further consideration should be given to the question of convening a special meeting of the Council in February 1983.

54. His delegation fully endorsed the Administrator's views on pre-investment activities, contained in document DP/521, paragraphs 33-36. The ultimate decision on how to use UNDP resources for development rested with Governments; UNDP was not a capital-financing institution or a body in charge of project approval for submission to financial institutions.

55. With respect to the future contributions of countries with a per capita GDP of over $1,500, he wished to stress that decision 80/30, paragraph 6 (e), did not affect the voluntary nature of contributions to UNDP, and that the increased financial burden for the medium-income countries should be considered within the perspective of increased financial support, at acceptable levels, for UNDP from the industrialized countries. The expansion of cost-sharing financial modalities must be taken into account within the over-all framework of those countries' financial participation in UNDP activities.

56. His delegation recommended approval of the country programmes submitted for the Council's consideration and strongly recommended the revision of Guinea-Bissau's TFF so that it would reach levels more compatible with the needs of that country. It was the duty of all Governments represented in the Council to provide the administration with the means required to carry out its tasks effectively and to reach the targets which the Council itself had set. He was confident that the Council would live up to the expectations of the developing world. Through technical co-operation, the establishment of a new international economic order would be furthered, and UNDP was the instrument which should be used to tackle effectively some of the most serious problems confronting the developing world.

57. Mr. SCHMID (Austria) said that his country continued to regard UNDP as the single most important channel for technical assistance to developing countries and as a co-ordinating agency with a heavy responsibility for maintaining the coherence of the development effort of the whole United Nations system. His delegation was deeply concerned about the recent attempts to tear apart the United Nations system of technical co-operation by denying UNDP its central role. The maintenance of the system was in the interests of developing and developed countries alike, and his delegation believed in the viability of such a unified, effective and action-oriented system.

58. Consequently, the establishment of new funding mechanisms in the field of technical assistance should be approached with caution. Certainly, compelling
in the spirit of the accepted principle of universality. Naturally, all those measures would have to be accompanied by new efforts on the part of traditional contributors.

61. With respect to the immediate guidelines for the continuation of UNDP's work and its administrative handling, the basic decisions taken in resolution 80/30 should be upheld. It was not yet necessary to introduce the linear cuts provided for in that decision, since the full extent of financial resources available during a cycle could only be correctly assessed towards the end of the period. On the other hand, foreseeable expenditures had to be kept within the limits of foreseeable resources. In order to maintain the high level of services expected while at the same time satisfying existing rules and regulations which ensured a sound financial basis for forward planning, his delegation suggested that for 1982, 20 per cent of the IPFs established on the basis of resolution 80/30 should be held in abeyance as long as the current financial constraints continued. That margin of security could be reduced to 10 per cent for 1983, and full programme implementation could be projected for 1984. His delegation was convinced that such a temporary reduction of expenditures would not have any serious repercussions on the programme's real value. In connexion with the added responsibilities the administration would face in carrying out such a gradual freeing of resources, his delegation would give careful consideration to the Canadian proposal concerning a more thorough monitoring of programme implementation through more frequent meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee.

62. He pledged his country's support for all forward-looking and realistic approaches which would ensure that UNDP functioned in the service of the developing countries.

63. Mrs. GONTHIER (Observer for Seychelles) said that her country continued to require substantial financial, technical and economic assistance, but unfortunately, the measures aimed at increasing such assistance provided for in General Assembly resolution 34/126 had not been implemented. Per capita GNP was not an acceptable basis for comparing small and often isolated island States with continental countries. The GNP failed to reflect the disadvantages faced by Seychelles and other island developing countries such as limited population, remote location, lack of resources and skilled personnel, an undiversified economy and agriculture, over-dependence on tourism, and transportation problems.

64. Severe economic constraints had forced Seychelles to close two of its three diplomatic embassies in the previous year. Priority was being given to trying to develop a diversified economy and providing decent health care, housing and education for the people. Her delegation requested that the Council review the criteria for IPFs in the case of small island developing countries in order to find concrete ways and means of helping island States with small populations. It had been expected that the third cycle IPFs for countries with a per capita GNP below $3,000 would be larger than the second cycle IPF; however, in the case of the Seychelles, the third cycle IPF was 70 per cent less in real terms. While the Seychelles GNP figure was relatively high by third world standards, it was largely artificial and failed to take account of the country's economic vulnerability and
remoteness. A high expatriate population and other factors tended to inflate the figure; thus, not figures but the specifics of the country's situation should be assessed.

65. Her country's resources were scarce, and UNDP assistance was declining in real terms, while the cost of implementing projects was constantly rising. Her delegation was requesting that a just and acceptable basis be used when small and isolated island States were compared with continental countries. She hoped that that request would be given serious consideration.

66. Mr. Kolby (Norway) said that, in his introduction, the Administrator had pointed out that the perspectives for the developing countries were darker than ever before. Although during the 1970s most developing countries had come very close to achieving the United Nations target of an annual 6 per cent growth in GNP for the Second Development Decade, at the end of three decades of international action devoted to social and economic progress, there had been a dramatic increase in the gap between rich and poor nations and, at the same time, growing disparities between the low-income countries and the rest of the developing group. Currently, more people were living in absolute poverty than at the beginning of the 1970s. The debt burden of developing countries had increased dramatically, and a number of them, especially in Africa, were faced with serious food shortages.

67. In that situation, which called for bold initiatives, the current standstill in the North-South dialogue and the stalemate in the preparations for global negotiations were all the more disquieting. His Government had on several occasions stressed the importance of an early launching of the global negotiations, and he hoped that the forthcoming summit in Ottawa would bring new momentum to that process.

68. A major issue in the global negotiations would be the transfer of resources from rich to poor countries. The international target for official development assistance for the Second Development Decade had been set at 0.7 per cent. The target had been reiterated and strengthened through the establishment of a time-frame for its attainment in the new International Development Strategy. His Government fully supported the target as well as the new 1 per cent target to be reached as soon as possible thereafter. As one of four developed countries, Norway had already reached that target.

69. Over the years, Norway had channelled a large share of its ODA to the United Nations system through UNDP. He reiterated his Government's support for UNDP as the central funding, planning and co-ordinating United Nations organs for technical assistance.

70. In view of the increased need for technical assistance to developing countries, it was regrettable that the Governing Council was faced with a critical short-fall in anticipated resources, particularly since all Member States seemed to acknowledge that UNDP was indeed a unique programme. It was universal in character and provided assistance to more than 150 nations and territories, in full partnership and co-operation with the developing countries.
71. His Government attached special importance to UNDP's ability to respond to the changing needs of developing countries. The allocation of resources for the third cycle as set out in decision 80/30 properly put emphasis on the urgent needs of the poorest countries, and his Government supported the allocation formula in that decision.

72. In the third programming cycle, particular attention should be given to the role of women in the development process. Time and money spent on education and on creating salaried employment opportunities for women was the best way to reach the poorest groups in developing countries.

73. With inflation rates and currency fluctuations, the annual growth target of 14 per cent for the third programming cycle adopted in decision 80/30 might be seen as a minimum to ensure the momentum of the programme. In the light of current indications from major donor countries, that growth target appeared unrealistic. Recent figures presented by the Administrator indicated that the planned programme levels for 1982 and 1983 might have to be reduced considerably, unless the resource situation improved notably. In the meantime, UNDP's financial planning must be based on realistic programming levels. The prospects confronting the programme were disturbing. The situation called for a frank and constructive exchange of views among all delegations.

74. Norway, together with other Nordic countries, had for years been among the largest contributors to UNDP. During the last years of the second cycle, the Nordic countries had contributed nearly 30 per cent of the total resources of UNDP. If the growth target for the third cycle was to be reached, it would be necessary for more countries to contribute an increased share of their ODA to UNDP and for more countries to become net contributors. It was evident that a number of developed industrialized countries could contribute more. His delegation agreed with Canada that the focus of the Administrator's appeal to re-establish momentum was too concentrated on a limited group of donors who traditionally had borne the great bulk of the UNDP financial burden. In that connexion, it was relevant to focus attention on the direct benefits that a number of industrialized countries had received from the programme as suppliers of goods and services. There was clearly a need for a better balance between countries with respect to procurement.

75. His Government had consistently supported the principle underlyig the 1970 Consensus establishing UNDP as the central technical assistance organ within the United Nations system. His Government was therefore concerned about the number of new special funds which had since been established within the United Nations system. The net result had been a fragmentation of the resources available to UNDP and to the United Nations system and increased administrative costs. That proliferation of funds eroded the potential resource basis for UNDP and the resources available to the individual developing countries through their IFs. He hoped that the proliferation of new funds would not continue, but if such funds were established, they should be administered by UNDP, and funds already entrusted to UNDP should be as closely integrated in the country programming process as possible. His Government was likewise concerned about the tendency of bodies
already under the UNDP umbrella to seek increased autonomy, and would like to see
that trend reversed. UNDP should also have a crucial role in the follow-up of the
United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the United
Nations Conference on the Least-Developed Countries.

76. UNDP's proposed supplementary budget would increase the ratio of administrative
costs in relation to programme expenditures beyond the level that was acceptable to
his delegation. If the total resources of UNDP were not increasing in real terms,
the administrative expenditure should not increase. At a time when Governments,
owing to financial constraints, had to set a ceiling on posts and staffing and on
administrative budgets, it was not possible to accept a larger increase of staff in
an organization financed by taxpayers' money.

77. In view of the great cost of the field offices and the general services which
they rendered to the United Nations system as a whole, the possibility of having
part of the cost financed through the regular budget of the United Nations and the
United Nations institutions making use of those services should be explored.

78. His Government was concerned about the tendency of a number of other United
Nations bodies to increase their field representations. That quite often tended to
duplicate a function which could and should be performed by the UNDP resident
representative. The field representations were extremely costly and added greatly
to the administrative costs of the United Nations system, at a time when resources
for technical assistance were showing serious signs of stagnation or even reduction
in real terms.

79. His delegation noted with interest the proposal made by Canada for having
quarterly meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee. More frequent contacts
between the Administrator and Governments were of special importance in the
difficult financial situation facing UNDP.

80. Mr. DADZIE (Director-General for Development and International Economic
Co-operation) said that the world economy was, and had been for some time, in a
state of acute disequilibrium. There was deep concern about the ability of the
international economic system to resolve the multiple and interlocking crises that
currently beset it and to put in place a viable process of international
development. Those concerns should not give rise to defeatism. Rather, they
confirmed the historic necessity of fashioning new patterns of international
co-operation to resolve the crisis of the world economy, imparting fresh momentum to
the growth process and rapidly adapting structural relationships so as to accelerate
the development of the developing countries. Developments in international economic
relations in recent years had fallen considerably short of those objectives. The
focus had shifted from bold changes to "crisis management", comprising ad hoc
remedies and palliatives applied to various symptoms of the underlying structural
maladjustments. In some crucial fields, including money and finance, protection of
the purchasing power of developing country exports and access to markets, the
process of change was at an early stage. Most developing countries were still
at a fundamental disadvantage in principal markets in which they were either suppliers or customers, and their participation in the management of vital components of the international economic system remained far from adequate. In a number of other basic aspects of the new international economic order, forward movement had been negligible.

81. There had, however, been some strengthening of the capacities of international monetary and financial institutions and a number of adjustments in their operations. A measure of progress had also been registered in regard to the "rules of the game" governing behaviour in certain markets. Some new institutions providing for more equitable participation by developing countries – notably IFAD and the Common Fund – had been established to deal with problems of particular concern to developing countries.

82. There was a wide, but regrettably not yet universal, appreciation of the need for an external environment that was fully supportive of the national and collective efforts of developing countries. The strategy of collective self-reliance as a means of accelerating the development of developing countries and contributing to the establishment of the new international economic order had received important impetus in recent months. A better understanding had been attained of the nature of the development process and of the ultimate aim of development, namely, the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its full participation in the process of development and the fair distribution of the benefits therefrom. There was growing awareness of the significance of non-capital sources of growth, such as human resource development, and effective use of productive resources, which were the raison d'être of the technical co-operation and related operational activities of the United Nations system.

83. It was in that context that multilateral technical co-operation acquired its proper value, for it sought to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to attain their development goals through improvements in the availability or use of human, material and financial resources.

84. UNDP had fashioned a capacity to evolve constructively in response to changing needs and perceptions. The Governing Council itself had been at the forefront of that imaginative effort to develop new approaches to technical co-operation from the lessons of experience. The 1970 Consensus, reflecting the principle of each country's right to determine its own path to development, had affirmed the prerogative of developing countries to make their own choices regarding the allocation of UNDP resources placed at their disposal. Five years later, the Governing Council had agreed that multilateral technical co-operation should thereafter be oriented towards the exclusive objective of the national and collective self-reliance of developing countries. The previous year, the Council had adopted a decision on the allocation of UNDP resources for the forthcoming programming cycle that was pregnant with implications for the future of the programme as a whole. UNDP provided developing countries with opportunities to participate in a unique international partnership for development. It had benefited from the active participation and technical support of the organizations of the
United Nations system, particularly the specialized agencies, and, with its extensive network of field offices, UNDP had enhanced the contribution of the system at the country level and provided valuable assistance to Governments in the task of co-ordinating external assistance.

85. With regard to the wide and persistent gap between the needs of developing countries and the resources available for the operational activities of the United Nations system, it had been no accident that the General Assembly, in defining the over-all objectives for the restructuring of those activities, had given pride of place to the need for a real increase in the flow of resources for such activities on a predictable, continuous and assured basis. The issue of the adequacy of resources, along with the intimately related problems of efficiency and effectiveness, had been central themes of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities undertaken by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

86. The figure adopted by the Governing Council in 1980 for the purposes of forward planning represented, in his view, the maximum increase that would enable UNDP to maintain its programme in real terms and to enhance its response to the urgent requirements of developing countries for multilateral technical co-operation. Without a considerable real increase in resources for the operational activities of the United Nations system, on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, UNDP's potential would remain underutilized.

87. The fundamental problem of reconciling short-term uncertainties with long-term demands through the introduction of more permanent arrangements for the financing of UNDP appeared no nearer solution. As a first step in that direction, the General Assembly had urged all countries that were able to do so to indicate, while making their pledges, their probable contributions to the system's operational activities for development for a multiyear period. However, fundamental improvements would have to be sought in the way in which UNDP was financed, in order to enable it to ensure predictable and assured technical co-operation flows to developing countries in support of their development programmes.

88. He associated himself with the Administrator's appeal to preserve the basis of the decision adopted by the Council in 1980. He hoped that all donor countries, particularly those developed countries whose over-all performance was not commensurate with their capacity, would make greater efforts to meet the targets to which they themselves had previously subscribed. However, the immediate situation facing UNDP could not be divorced from the serious problems confronting other development co-operation organizations of the system. There were signs that the trend towards multilateralism perceptible during the 1970s might now be halted or reversed in the direction of bilateralism. If current policies continued, the prospects for significantly enhanced official development assistance flows as a whole, in which UNDP might be expected to share, would be prone to increasing uncertainty.
89. He hoped that Governments would give renewed attention to the establishment of a comprehensive system of international financial co-operation designed to underpin internationally agreed objectives for development and in which the operational activities of the United Nations system would play their part. Such a comprehensive system could be established on the basis of already accepted principles, including the generally held view that substantially increased transfers of resources to developing countries would not only accelerate their development but could help to stimulate global economic activity, particularly in the medium to long term. The General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session had invited the governing bodies of the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider new and specific ways of mobilizing increased resources for operational activities for development. A breakthrough in the financing of those activities towards greater predictability and assuredness would represent a critical factor in the evolution of a new system of international financial co-operation for development.

90. Another over-all objective established by the General Assembly for the restructuring of the operational activities of the United Nations system was that the assistance provided through those activities should be in conformity with the national objectives and priorities of the recipient countries. Governments should not merely be the beneficiaries of technical co-operation: they should also be the principal and dominant partners. Equally, UNDP-assisted projects should be integral parts of a national development programme, for which Governments, while retaining over-all responsibility and authority, would naturally remain free for specific purposes to request the services of, or delegate responsibility to, the competent specialized agency. That approach, which required a restructuring of relationships between Governments, UNDP and the agencies, was fully in accord with the major purpose of technical co-operation, namely, helping Governments to build up institutions and strengthen their management capacity. The Council's discussions at the current session on the Administrator's proposals regarding project execution by Governments could well be decisive in introducing, in a progressive and balanced manner, modifications to the way in which the technical co-operation activities of the United Nations system were managed. Such changes should, of course, be accompanied by measures that preserved the full accountability of the Administrator for all aspects of the implementation of the Programme and which maintained the multilateral character of these activities.

91. Another objective enunciated by the General Assembly in respect of operational activities concerned the achievement of optimum efficiency and the reduction of administrative costs, with a consequent increase in the proportion of resources available to meet the assistance requirements of developing countries. Questions of efficiency and effectiveness in the system's operational activities had been given considerable attention by the General Assembly at the thirty-fifth session during the comprehensive policy review. Very useful initiatives had already been taken by UNDP, in collaboration with organizations in the system, and other efforts in the same direction were continuing throughout the system, with the assistance of the appropriate interagency machinery. One recent development was the increasing attention being paid to the evaluation of operational activities, so as to review their quality, relevance and effectiveness in meeting the objectives of recipient
Governments and legislative bodies. Programme evaluation - focused on broad sectoral or intersectoral issues of operational concern - and evaluation of individual projects were being undertaken collaboratively by the Governments concerned, the agencies and UNDP, and continued efforts were to be made in those directions, particularly through the development of measures to feed back evaluation results into programmes. Nevertheless, the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session had invited all organizations of the United Nations system to develop specific recommendations on measures to reduce administrative and other support costs and to achieve maximum harmonization of administrative, financial, budgetary, personnel and planning procedures and to improve project procedures.

92. So far as the co-ordination of operational activities at the country level was concerned, one major development over the past year had been the coming into effect of the new system of field representation through resident co-ordinators acting for the United Nations system as a whole. Pursuant to the understandings reached by the General Assembly, those resident co-ordinators were to promote at the country level, and in accordance with the objectives and priorities of the Government concerned, improved coherence of action and the effective integration of the various sectoral inputs from the organizations of the United Nations system. To that end, the resident co-ordinators were to undertake over-all responsibility for, and co-ordination of, operational activities for development carried out at the country level. They would also exercise team leadership and evolve at the country level a multidisciplinary dimension in the sectoral development assistance programmes of the United Nations system. Resident co-ordinators were to act wholly and completely in conformity with the criteria and priorities established by the competent national authorities and were to support the Government in shouldering the co-ordination responsibilities of that Government to the extent requested by the competent national authorities.

93. The agreed arrangements provided that the UNDP resident representative would normally be designated resident co-ordinator, so that the official concerned would have two functions - that of resident representative of UNDP, in which capacity he was directly responsible to the Administrator, and that of resident co-ordinator, which capacity he had broad and general responsibilities and co-ordination functions on behalf of the system as a whole. The Assembly had also decided that the modus operandi of the resident co-ordinator should not affect relations between Governments and individual organizations of the United Nations system or the direct lines of activities and communication between the representatives of those organizations at the country level and their own executive heads. The establishment of the new system of resident co-ordinators had been pursued in close collaboration with UNDP and in consultation with the organizations of the United Nations system as a whole. So far some 50 resident co-ordinators had been designated by the Secretary-General, with the consent of the Governments concerned and the full co-operation of the Administrator.

94. In conclusion, he paid a tribute to the constant efforts of UNDP, under the very able leadership of the Administrator, to improve its effectiveness and, above all, to enhance its relevance.
94. Mr. THIOUHN (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea) commended UNDP on the results achieved in its activities aimed at assisting the developing countries to improve the standard of living of their peoples.

96. Following the invasion of his country by the Vietnamese expansionists of Hanoi, UNDP had responded to the Secretary-General's appeal and had participated in 1980 in the international emergency relief operation for the people of Kampuchea. That showed the desire of UNDP and its Administrator to contribute to the struggle for survival of the people and nation of Kampuchea, who were going through the most difficult period in their long history. Although that contribution, like other humanitarian assistance, had been largely diverted by the Vietnamese invaders and occupiers to strengthen their armed forces and the regime they had installed in Phnom Penh at bayonet point, a part of it had nevertheless reached the Kampuchean population. UNDP's humanitarian assistance to the people of Kampuchea had helped to save a number of men, women and children from the genocidal crimes of the Vietnamese occupiers and augured well for UNDP's important future role in the reconstruction of Kampuchea after the certain victory of the valiant struggle of the people.

97. His delegation attached great importance to agenda item 6, "Country and intercountry programmes and projects", and regretted to see that, among the 14 country programmes included, that for the "Socialist Republic of Viet Nam", which ranked second in order of importance. Since 1975, Viet Nam had received large-scale assistance from various United Nations organizations and from many industrialized countries. However, instead of mobilizing that assistance, together with national resources, for the reconstruction of their devastated country and the improvement of the living conditions of the Vietnamese people, the Hanoi authorities had diverted them to serve their "Indochinese Federation" strategy and their policy of aggression and expansion in South-East Asia. After the annexation of Laos through the so-called "Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation" of 1977, they had then launched an initial invasion of Democratic Kampuchea in 1977, followed by a second invasion in December 1978 with large-scale assistance from the Soviet Union. The Vietnamese army was the fourth largest in the world, and all Vietnamese national resources and foreign assistance were being mobilized for the continuation of the aggression against, and occupation of, Kampuchea. Almost all the humanitarian assistance intended for the people of Kampuchea was diverted to those occupying forces. Even humanitarian assistance to the Vietnamese people was used primarily to maintain the Vietnamese army.

98. That militarization of Viet Nam was the principal cause of the reduction of its agricultural production. The living conditions in Viet Nam were worse than they had been during the war, in the period before 1975. The number of "boat people" increased monthly, made up of those fleeing famine and forced enrolment in the army. His statements were borne out by reports in the international press.

99. While the industrialized countries had frozen their bilateral aid to Viet Nam until it withdrew all its troops from Kampuchea, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 34/22 and 35/6, the programme of assistance to Viet Nam with contributions from those countries would short-circuit their policy of peace and justice. Such a programme would run counter to the current efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of all countries which cared for peace and justice.
to implement resolution 35/6 and hold an international conference on Kampuchea in order to arrive at an agreement on the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea and, following that retreat, the organization of free elections in Kampuchea supervised by the United Nations. Any aid to the Hanoi authorities would only prolong the war being waged by Viet Nam and entail thousands of additional deaths daily in Kampuchea.

100. UNDP assistance programmes were not tied to political conditions, but that assistance had been given only to countries which respected the independence and territorial integrity of their neighbours. Vietnamese regional expansion was a new historic fact, because it involved a developing country which had embarked on a course of neo-imperialism. Should the world close its eyes to the foul crimes of the authorities of that expansionist country on the pretext of past usage? All programmes of assistance to Viet Nam would have fatal consequences for the people of Kampuchea and for the efforts of the international community to re-establish peace, security and stability in the region.

101. His delegation opposed the adoption of any programme of assistance to Viet Nam so long as that country had not withdrawn all its invasion forces from Democratic Kampuchea in accordance with the relevant resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations.

102. He appealed to all members of the Governing Council to have pity on the people of Kampuchea, which was waging a heroic struggle not only for survival but also for the independence of all countries and for international peace and security. Their positive votes on resolution 35/6 had made it possible to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Kampuchea and encourage their just struggle, which was currently in the strategic stage of balance of forces. He appealed to States not to do anything that might aggravate or prolong their sufferings and impede the development of that struggle, in other words, not to adopt any programme of assistance to Viet Nam.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.