

UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME



UNDP

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/SR.723
15 January 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Twenty-eighth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 723rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 19 June 1981, at 10 p.m.

President: Mr. ABDULAH (Trinidad and Tobago)

CONTENTS

Other funds and programmes (continued)

(b) United Nations Volunteers (continued)

(c) United Nations Capital Development Fund (continued)

(d) United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (continued)

(e) United Nations Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development
(continued)

(h) Assistance to drought-stricken countries in Africa and follow-up to the United
Nations Conference on Desertification (continued)

(i) United Nations technical co-operation activities

Programme of implementation (continued)

(b) Assistance to the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization
of African Unity

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES (continued)

- (b) UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS (continued) (DP/535)
- (c) UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (continued) (DP/536 and Corr.1; DP/INF/34)
- (d) UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION (continued) (DP/537; DP/538; E/1981/23; DP/NRE/PROJECTS/1-4)
- (e) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FUND FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (DP/539)

1. Mr. MAYIRA (Rwanda) commended the United Nations Volunteers programme on its achievements during its first decade and on the increase in the number of volunteers in the field in 1980. His Government fully supported the programme and was worried by its budgetary problems.

2. Rwanda benefited from the programme's activities; at the same time, it was the country of origin of a number of volunteers who were currently working in various other countries, particularly in Africa. The Rwandese volunteers, however, appeared to have lost contact with their homeland, to which they should bring, at the end of their international career, the benefit of the technical experience gained elsewhere. That loss of contact was due to the fact that they had been recruited outside Rwanda. His delegation appealed to the Executive Co-ordinator of the programme to promote good relations between the Rwandese volunteers and their country of origin, to which their experience would be very useful in the development effort.

3. His Government deeply appreciated the assistance received from the United Nations Capital Development Fund, whose activities should be increasingly oriented towards investments in large-scale projects, particularly agricultural and industrial projects that had a real impact on development. In that connexion, his delegation was pleased to learn that the Fund proposed to participate in the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, at which various Governments, including his own, would be presenting priority projects to be executed within the framework of the new International Development Strategy.

4. The Governing Council should give every support to the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration. That Fund was very important to the developing countries, most of which possessed raw materials that were yet to be exploited.

5. With respect to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, the donor countries had not been generous enough in their contributions. The Interim Fund had fallen far short of the target of \$250 million needed to finance

(Mr. Mayira, Rwanda)

the more than 800 projects submitted by the developing countries. His delegation appealed to traditional and potential donors to contribute as generously as possible.

- (h) ASSISTANCE TO THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION (continued) (DP/542, DP/543, DP/544 and Corr.1; DP/L.346, L.348, L.349)

6. Mr. DOO KINGUE (Assistant Administrator, Regional Director for Africa) said that the representatives of Belgium and Kuwait had suggested that the reports submitted under item 7 (h) might contain information on the assistance given to the drought-stricken countries by other countries. The main purpose of the reports was to keep the Governing Council informed of the evolution of the drought situation in Africa, and every effort was made to ensure that they were as up-to-date as possible. At the end of each year, the Governments of the countries concerned were asked for information about the situation, on the basis of which it was possible to determine whether a particular country had been affected by drought and, if so, the intensity of the drought, the effect on the economy and the need for urgent, medium-term or long-term assistance from the international community. Because of the many variations in rainfall patterns, the countries concerned were requested to give even more recent information in the period immediately preceding the session of the Governing Council. He had thus been able, in his earlier statement, to inform the Council of improvements in the situation of some countries referred to in the reports and of the worsening situation in countries not referred to therein. In view of the unpredictability of the drought situation, it would be possible to provide information on assistance provided by other countries only with regard to those countries traditionally affected by drought, such as Ethiopia and Somalia. Much of the relevant information would come from the Club du Sahel and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. The documents submitted to the Governing Council might thus duplicate information reported elsewhere and exceed the 30-page limit.

7. Mr. RAMOS (Observer for Cape Verde) said that the solution of the problems of drought and desertification was essential to the survival of the countries of the Sahel. The sensitivity displayed by the Governing Council with regard to those problems was very encouraging, as was the support given by the members of the Club du Sahel and other countries which had contributed to the implementation of projects in the Sudano-Sahelian region. In that connexion, his delegation welcomed the activities of the Nordic countries and thanked those delegations which had expressed their Governments' desire to make their experience available to the affected countries.

8. Cape Verde attached great importance to the activities of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and its capacity to finance projects submitted by the Governments of the region. His delegation welcomed the decision to have funds pledged to the Sudano-Sahelian Office at the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

(Mr. Ramos, Observer, Cape Verde)

9. The complex task of environmental rehabilitation to which his Government was committed required substantial investments and diverted resources that could be used for development in other sectors. Cape Verde appealed to the international community to increase its support for the drought-stricken countries of the Sahel, whether through bilateral or through multilateral channels. It hoped that the Governing Council would adopt the draft decisions submitted by the representative of the Gambia under item 7 (h).

10. Mr. LAMUNIÈRE (Director, United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office) said that the representative of the Gambia had made an eloquent plea for additional resources for more projects in support of the national efforts of the drought-stricken countries. Most of the contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities were tied to projects, the remaining resources going towards complimentary project activities.

11. The Sudano-Sahelian Office would seek to tap the vast experience gained by China in desertification control and other areas referred to by the representative of China. The Chinese Government apparently looked with favour on the joint missions that were considering projects with the Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian countries. If China did wish to associate itself with the Sudano-Sahelian Office in supporting such activities, the specific arrangements should be discussed as soon as possible.

12. The representative of Egypt had referred to the experience which many of the affected countries had already gained in combating drought and desertification. The Sudano-Sahelian Office had made extensive use of such know-how and would continue to do so. He seconded the remarks made earlier in the meeting by the Assistant Administrator in reply to the representatives of Belgium and Kuwait.

13. The representative of Italy had said that more should be done to inform the world of the drought and desertification situation in the Sudano-Sahelian region. There was indeed insufficient awareness of the increasing severity of the problem. Public attention had been on the wane since the dramatic five-year period, 1968-1973. The affected countries, however, had not yet recovered. They continued to reel under the impact of the drought and were still subject to erratic precipitation. In some places, desertification was taking place as a result of processes other than aridity.

(i) UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES (DP/RP/23 and 24)

14. Miss ANSTEE (Assistant Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development) said that the Governing Council was the main source of guidance for the activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. The latter had striven hard to develop a closer relationship with the Council over the past two years, by seeking to pinpoint in its reports issues of a policy nature on which it required guidance. In response, the Council had provided such guidance through several useful decisions, including clear guidelines in 1980 for the regular programme of technical co-operation.

(Miss Anstee)

15. One of the results of that closer relationship had been the broadening of coverage in the reports on technical co-operation activities, as requested in decision 79/22. Documents DP/RP/23 and 24 covered all such United Nations activities under the regular programme. That positive development did, however, entail the difficulty of giving an adequate overview of a wide range of questions while compressing the information into the standard number of pages, and of highlighting major developments in an interesting way, rather than providing a simple and boring catalogue.

16. Turning to questions specifically related to the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, she recalled that the General Assembly's intention in establishing the Department had been that it should be the main operational arm of the United Nations for technical co-operation. It had been in existence for only three years - perhaps too short a time for a proper evaluation of the results achieved. Since, however, Governments were entitled to some assessment of trends, problems and achievements, an attempt had been made in document DP/RP/23 to provide such an assessment. In 1978, the Department had inherited a considerable deficit on overhead. About 20 per cent of the programme had been removed from its portfolio, some activities being transferred to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, others to the regional commissions. The year 1979 had been an inevitably difficult year of transition and reorganization. None the less, the delivery of technical co-operation from all sources had increased from \$US 98 million in the previous year to \$100 million; allowing for the loss of a significant proportion of the programme already mentioned, that in fact represented an increase of over 20 per cent in effective new projects. The Department had implemented 70 per cent of the budget, eliminated the overhead deficit and made progress towards consolidation. The year 1980 had been very active. The total delivery of technical co-operation had risen to \$134 million, a 34 per cent increase and the Department had implemented 84.5 per cent of the budget - a very considerable improvement on both counts.

17. While the Department was only too conscious that it could do much better in many areas, the progress so far had stiffened its resolve to tackle the remaining problems. She did not wish to imply that volume was the Department's only or even principal criterion of performance. Although it was true that quantitative considerations had required particular attention in the early years of the Department's life, when a situation of overhead deficit had prevailed, full weight had been given to qualitative improvements from the very start. With the restoration of financial solvency, the Department had been able to intensify its efforts in that regard and was broadening the range and quality of technical support to the programme. Overhead was used not only for administrative purposes, but also to develop technical services able to provide improved substantive backstopping of projects and better and more relevant service to Governments and to keep abreast of the latest technological advances. The Department was also seeking qualitative improvements through the cross-fertilization of experiences and in evaluation.

(Miss Anstee)

18. The Department had always been aware of two things: that the success of its work could be measured only by its impact on developing countries and that the bulk of the Department's staff worked in the field. Senior members of the Department had travelled widely to countries to examine the effectiveness of its work in the field and to talk with Governments and resident representatives in an effort to streamline its operation further and to improve its quality and relevance. In 1980, those visits had revealed a greatly improved climate, with most Governments feeling that the Department was providing a useful and improving service. While not wishing to imply that all the Department's clients were fully satisfied, she said that there was ample evidence of real progress.

19. There were, however, certain aspects which might limit the Department's endeavours to build further on that encouraging record. First, the Department lacked a clear identity. Its role appeared to be defined in negative terms - it was almost invariably described as doing what nobody else happened to be doing. It was indeed difficult to find a short and self-explanatory heading which would embrace its wide range of activities, including such important areas as development planning, natural resources, minerals, water, energy, public works, public administration and finance, and statistics, population and social development. Taken as a whole, those activities might be called the infrastructure of development, interpreted in its broadest sense.

20. Secondly, that lack of clear identity led to a certain amount of confusion among recipient Governments. One purpose of the missions undertaken by the Department was in fact to clear up misapprehensions about the Departments' role and functions, which, combined with a lack of separate field representation, had its effects on the Department's participation in the country programmes and also perpetuated the historical tendency to live off important sectors of the Department's mandate.

21. Thirdly, she felt that the present position of the Department was not fully consolidated in the way intended by the General Assembly resolutions. For example, some administrative and financial aspects of the programme were still not under the Department's control, and it often had to conform to regulations more suited to Headquarter's requirements than to operational activities, which demanded rapid and flexible answers. The Department's role as the United Nations operational arm for technical co-operation had not fully crystallized vis-à-vis other units of the United Nations proper involved in that area. Furthermore, other United Nations organizations were becoming increasingly involved in fields traditionally within the mandate of the Department and its predecessors, whether through the expansion or modification of existing programmes, or the creation of new ones.

22. Fourthly, the Department was, to a much larger extent than other executing agencies, financially dependent on UNDP or UNFPA, which accounted for two thirds and one fifth of its programme respectively.

(Miss Anstee)

23. The continued success and improved management of the Department were predicated on two assumptions: first, that financing for multilateral co-operation would be adequate and, second, that legislative decisions would not be made at short notice to remove other fields of activity from the Department's mandate. Legislative bodies should take care to think through the implications of any such proposals, especially in terms of duplication of services, and to allow sufficient lead time for adjustments. Otherwise the Department's capacity to manage would inevitably suffer, since efficiency and economy required a long-term management strategy.

24. It was appreciated that the key importance of certain areas for the development process - natural resources, energy, water and development planning might explain the widespread desire to increase technical co-operation in those specializations and the temptation to open up new channels but, leaving aside the consideration of duplication of services, it must be recognized that effective and economic management of the Department required clear and timely definition on those matters. Many organizational, management and procedural improvements being introduced into the Department depended on economies of scale and the maintenance of a minimum critical mass. Some assurance was therefore required concerning the likely minimum scope and size of the Department's activities over the coming years in order to plan ahead and to ensure maximum use of available resources. The preoccupation with economizing resources explained the Department's concern that its technical services, which were largely financed from overheads, were not duplicated elsewhere. She reiterated the Department's offer made in the general debate, to place those services at the disposal of UNDP for the technical support of appropriate specialized funds.

25. Turning to the Department's share of the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation, she said that the useful guidelines established by the Council in 1980 were being observed. Document DP/RP/23 indicated how the Regular Programme was being used to complement UNDP funds, to promote global priorities identified by intergovernmental bodies and to favour technical co-operation among developing countries and in the least developed countries. She stressed the Department's active role in helping the least developed countries prepare for their presentations for the Paris Conference, in collaboration with UNCTAD. Such assistance had been given to 12 countries and, a few weeks previously, she herself had presided over pre-review meetings held in Addis Ababa for Burundi, the Comoros and Rwanda.

26. The Department had continued to carry out Governing Council decision 79/22, requesting the Department to use its expertise in development planning to support UNDP efforts to improve the basis for country programming. In 1980, 12 missions had taken place, 4 of which had involved the least developed countries.

27. She emphasized the efforts to involve women as participants and beneficiaries of technical co-operation within the context of the Department's projects. Those efforts were particularly directed towards training women, particularly in scientific and technological skills. They included awarding three fellowships to

(Miss Anstee)

female laboratory technicians at the Burundi mineral project for study at the Bureau de recherches géologiques et minières in France and involvement in several projects designed to enhance participation of rural women in economic and social development, in communities, and as income generators. One such project, in Liberia, was an integrated rural development effort of particular interest, concentrating on income generation and village technology, with women being the major target group.

28. Turning to UNDP/UNFPA-financed activities, she said that, as befitted the emphasis on the least developed countries, the largest share of the resources available was devoted to Africa, where \$52 million had been spent in 1980. It was, however, a matter of concern that in Asia, which also contained a significant number of the least developed countries, only \$30 million had been spent, i.e., only \$2 million more than in the Americas. The Department retained a strong role in middle-income countries, which reflected the fact that the lower IPFs were bolstered by cost-sharing. It also reflected the continuing needs of those countries for sophisticated technology, which was a prominent part of the Department's specializations.

29. A sectoral breakdown of the Departments' activities in 1980 showed that 35 per cent of the programme was devoted to natural resources, still the major area of activity; 19 per cent to development planning and statistics, two areas where demand was growing; 9 per cent to public administration, a stable area; and 6 per cent to population.

30. As far as programme components were concerned, the proportion of equipment and subcontracts continued to increase in relation to experts and training. Attempts had been made to diversify sources of procurement from developing countries, and also from some under-represented major donors. Progress in the latter case had, however, been slow. She was also disappointed with the efforts to increase recruitment of experts from developing countries. It should, however, be noted that, while the number of candidates from developing countries proposed for Government consideration actually increased, the proportion accepted had dropped. She also regretted the slow progress in appointing more women experts, largely due to the lack of qualified candidates.

31. Regarding pre-investment and investment follow-up, about which the Governing Council had given specific directives to the Department in its decision 80/42, although high priority had been given to that work, progress had been slower than she would have hoped. The undoubted importance of the work was graphically illustrated, for example, by the Saindak porphyry copper studies in Pakistan whose estimated original cost was \$411,000 against an expected investment of \$400 million in the negotiation of which the Department was assisting. It was also important to recognize the long gestation period involved in these activities, as shown by the geothermal project in Ethiopia which had just reached the drilling stage after a protracted period of preliminary studies. As requested by the Council, a co-operative agreement on pre-investment and investment follow-up had been signed with UNDP, and a list of projects would soon be agreed. The Department was,

(Miss Anstee)

however, concerned that the arrangement with UNDP would have only limited impact because of lack of additional funds, since most additional studies were now to be financed by IPF resources. That concern had been reinforced by remarks made in the general debate by the Assistant Director-General of FAO, who had spoken of studies costing \$165,000 mobilizing \$265 million, but who had warned that the number of studies had decreased by two thirds once their cost had to be charged to the IPFs. She therefore hoped that the Governing Council could make more funds available.

32. As also requested in decision 80/42, closer relations were being developed with the World Bank, but it had not been possible to negotiate co-operative arrangements similar to those between the Bank and FAO, and with some other agencies. Instead, informal arrangements were being worked out, on a sectoral basis, especially in the field of natural resources. The emphasis thus far had been on energy, especially to co-ordinate assessment missions sent out by the Department at the request of the General Assembly to ascertain financial requirements for energy resources exploration over the next 10 to 15 years, with rather similar missions subsequently fielded by the World Bank and UNDP. She said that energy was one field where the Department could do more, especially once the Nairobi Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy had adopted its plan of action, and the Department looked forward to participating actively in the follow-up.

33. The Department was finalizing internal guidelines for more effective handling of investment-oriented projects, including arrangements for cataloguing them, so that there was an easily accessible inventory as a basis for systematic monitoring and evaluation.

34. In conclusion, she stressed that the Department could not achieve efficient management and optimum use of resources without the support and understanding of Governments, and above all their guidance as to the future direction and evolution of the Department.

35. Mr. SAHLGREN (Executive Director, United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations) said that the importance of the Centre's technical co-operation programme, whose objective was to strengthen the capability of developing countries in dealing with matters related to transnational corporations, flowed from the significant effect which those corporations had on every component of the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. The relations between transnational corporations and developing countries were, understandably, issues of priority importance to the international community.

36. Foreign direct investment flows continued to be of great importance to many developing countries and, in recent years, transnational corporations were also increasingly involved in developing countries through non-equity forms of arrangements such as technology licensing, and management and marketing contracts.

(Mr. Sahlgren)

37. While developing countries had recognized the contribution which transnational corporations could make to their national development efforts, they were also sensitive to the costs involved. A growing but more selective relationship was developing. Increasingly, host developing countries were seeking the participation of transnational corporations in such sectors and in such forms as would strengthen their domestic capability. More and more developing countries were looking to the transnational corporations as a complement to their national efforts and sought to harness their capabilities in the context of self-reliance in order to establish and strengthen indigenous capabilities.

38. Since the interests and objectives of transnational corporations did not necessarily coincide with those of the host countries, it was being increasingly recognized that a combination of measures, information and skills were indispensable if the benefits were to be maximized and the costs kept at a minimum. Therefore, an increasing number of developing countries were enacting national policies and legislation to cover the whole range of issues related to transnational corporations. They were formulating more clearly defined objectives, developing or strengthening their institutional arrangements and procedures for screening and monitoring projects involving transnational corporations, developing information systems and endeavouring to strengthen their ability to negotiate with transnational corporations. At the same time, the relationship between host countries and transnational corporations was becoming more complex, with an increasing variety of equity and non-equity arrangements, and an increasing variety of options were available. In recognition of the urgent need to provide those developing countries with the experience, skills and information necessary to make the most of those options, the Economic and Social Council had established the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations as the central unit within the United Nations system for dealing with the whole range of issues related to transnational corporations, including co-operation to requesting Governments.

39. The Centre had evolved an effective programme of technical co-operation aimed at assisting requesting Governments in devising their national policies, laws and regulations on matters related to various forms of participation by transnational corporations. Judging from the rapidly increasing number of requests from Governments, it was clear that the services corresponded to an urgently felt need. Since the programme had become operational, the Centre had responded to some 220 requests for advisory projects from 56 Governments, half of which had come during 1980 alone, and had conducted 44 training workshops attended by over 1,750 officials from some 75 countries. The Centre had also been increasingly involved in a wide range of projects of major immediate significance to national development efforts.

40. The Centre had to be able to respond rapidly, if necessary in a matter of days, to an enormous variety of issues which could not be programmed in advance. The effectiveness of its programme was therefore determined by its ability to deliver high-quality expertise at very short notice; that had been achieved through the development of an in-house capability consisting of a small number of full-time professionals, technical advisers and consultants on retainer, supplemented by ad hoc consultants. The Centre had been fortunate in being able to attract persons

(Mr. Sahlgren)

with many years of proven practical experience in dealing with matters related to transnational corporations, particularly in developing countries. As a result, its full-time personnel and consultants on retainer had participated in the execution of 60 per cent of its advisory projects and in all training workshops. That arrangement not only facilitated the prompt reply to Government requests, but also enriched the Centre's own knowledge and experience, which in turn provided an effective means of sharing experience among developing countries. The merits of that approach had been widely recognized, and its benefits were quite disproportionate to the small cost involved.

41. The Centre's technical co-operation programme had so far been made possible largely as a result of voluntary contributions by Governments to its Trust Fund for Technical Co-operation. UNDP funds were gradually increasing in importance, since the Centre had been authorized in July 1979 to execute on behalf of the United Nations UNDP-financed projects. As there was every indication that that programme would continue to increase rapidly, the Commission on Transnational Corporations and the Economic and Social Council had stressed that UNDP funds should become a major source of financing. To that end, the Centre was co-operating closely with UNDP, both at headquarters and in the field, and was elaborating a variety of projects reflecting the requirements of Governments as stated at the national level, as well as in UNDP and other intergovernmental meetings convened to identify technical co-operation needs. He expressed his confidence that, with the support of UNDP, that programme would be able to develop and expand in a manner commensurate with the expressed needs and wishes of Governments.

42. Mr. LINDORES (Canada) said that his delegation welcomed the significant progress which the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development had made. However, there were some matters which required continuing attention. There was some concern among his country's partners in bilateral arrangements, and among the representatives present, about the speed of the Department's activities, the flexibility of its response and, in some unfortunate cases, its technical competence. Document DP/RP/23 (para. 15) had already pointed out some of those problems. First, there was the difficulty of developing an operational programme in the context of administrative, financial and management criteria not essentially designed for it. In that connexion, there was a need for extensive debate within the United Nations in order to achieve greater flexibility. Secondly, there was the critical problem of the multiplication of programmes on important subjects, leading to fragmentation. In future, the Department's responsibilities and role would have to be given very careful consideration before any other programmes were instigated. Thirdly, he strongly agreed with the Assistant Secretary-General that it was important to avoid duplication of capabilities; if UNDP was to be regarded as an "umbrella" for technical co-operation funds, rather than as a central funding agency, which would have been greatly preferable, every effort must be made not to duplicate the executing capacity of agencies, especially in view of recent demands for rationalization and increased efficiency. There was a dual responsibility involved: that of the executing agencies to ensure a high standard of services and close co-operation with the Administrator, and that of UNDP and other funding agencies to seek to improve unsatisfactory arrangements, rather than creating parallel structures.

43. Mr. MINAH (Sierra Leone) said that the reports of the Secretary-General in documents DP/RP/23 and DP/RP/24 highlighted the urgent need to mobilize as much support as possible for the activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. Equally important was the Department's commitment to assist in solving the special problems of the least developed countries, particularly acute in Africa.

44. His country had in the past benefited immensely from the Department's activities, and believed that the improvements being made would go a long way towards enhancing the development capability of most developing countries and thereby alleviating hardship and promoting better living standards. It was vital to reduce unnecessary costs and to increase direct benefits to developing countries. A basic requirement for achieving maximum economy and efficiency was an intensified effort towards further streamlining, together with a strengthening of the "partnership system" so as to ensure that UNDP and the executing agencies each played their respective roles in the most effective and co-operative manner.

45. The Department should also play a major role in co-operating with other agencies in the execution of ongoing activities within its mandate and in the implementation of follow-up activities initiated by the Conferences on the Least Developed Countries and on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

46. Ms. ZHANG Zong-an (China) said that, in just three years, the Department had achieved outstanding results. Its programme had increased in 1980 by 34 per cent compared with 1979, its execution rate now stood at 84 per cent and it had become the second largest agency executing UNDP-financed projects and the primary executing agency for UNFPA. It was thus a very important agency within the development system, and covered a very wide range of activities. The Governing Council should consequently accord it greater importance and seek to use its capabilities to the full.

47. The Department had immense capacity to offer in the area of natural resources and energy - 35 per cent of all projects in 1980 had been in that area - and closer co-operation with other United Nations activities in that field, notably the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, would enable it to give even greater assistance to developing countries in exploiting their resources and solving their vital energy problems.

48. Her Government attached the greatest importance to co-operation with the Department. The census currently being taken in her country, the biggest operation as yet undertaken by the Department, was proving highly successful. The Department was also co-operating with a number of Government departments, particularly on geological resources, involving participation by technicians from 17 or 18 developing countries, who were able to share their experiences with very positive results. She felt sure that that co-operation would continue to develop.

49. Mr. RANIGA (Fiji) welcomed the Secretary-General's report, which reflected the excellent way in which the Department was facing up to its challenging tasks. It stressed the need to mobilize the greatest possible support for the Department, and his country would continue to offer its support. He welcomed the assistance of the Department, particularly as concerned the special problems of least developed countries, but hoped that the problems of the island developing countries would also be borne in mind. With a view to strengthening the Department's activities, his delegation would be submitting a draft resolution underlining the need for partnership and to use the expertise of the Department to the maximum.

50. Mr. ASRANI (India) said that the Department's performance in 1980, compared to 1979, had been impressive, especially as regards TCDC. However, there was a need to increase procurement of equipment and recruitment of experts from the developing countries; although there had been a modest increase in equipment, services and host facilities for training schemes, recruitment of experts had actually fallen in 1980. He supported a proposal to set up a regional recruitment office in Nairobi.

51. Congratulations were due to UNIDO for its work in promoting technical co-operation, especially as regards least developed countries.

52. There were a number of UNDP projects being executed in India by the Department, and his Government attached particular importance to the central water and power research station at Poona.

53. The points on which the work of the Department could be criticized had already been outlined in the document. Attention must be given especially to avoiding duplication of capabilities.

54. Mr. AHLANDER (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the delegations of the Nordic countries, said that there was a clear justification for the technical co-operation activities of the United Nations, and that the Department was a highly valuable executing agency. A number of areas, such as public administration and social services, appeared to have no place in such a programme, but development planning and administration, aid to least developed countries for the development of their own mineral and energy resources, and for the preparation of the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, were very important. Each programme had to find its own identity and be justified individually in terms of its contribution to development.

55. Mr. GONZALEZ (Argentina) agreed that it was important to avoid duplication, and hoped that the Department would make every effort to continue to carry out its tasks with increased efficiency. Evidence for that efficiency was already to be seen in the excellent project currently being executed in joint co-operation with his country and with Paraguay.

56. Mr. KABA (Guinea) said that his delegation fully supported the substance of the Secretary-General's report and of the Assistant Secretary-General's introduction. His country's experience of co-operation with the Department had been very fruitful and it hoped to see a closer relationship develop between UNDP and the Department.

57. Mrs. VERVALCKE (Belgium) said that, despite the great importance of the work of the Department, it had long been regarded rather as a poor relation. She welcomed the fact that its activities were reviewed by the Council, a principle which should apply to most development activities, but felt that very often matters were not treated in sufficient depth. It was essential that the varied and multiple nature of the Department's capabilities should not lead to its activities being regarded as in any way residual, or as less important than in fact they were. She welcomed the progress that had been achieved in her country's co-operation with the Department, through its contribution of associate experts.

58. She stressed the problems affecting the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), whose very survival appeared to be in jeopardy, for two reasons: first, its internal functioning was undergoing a grave crisis; secondly, it was failing to provide African countries with the services which they required. Her delegation was convinced that CAFRAD had a very important role to play in developing public administration in Africa, and hoped that some relief would be forthcoming from UNDP and from the public administration section of the Department.

59. Further, she hoped that, despite its rather modest resources, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women might acquire a role as an initiator of projects, which might then find additional funding from other bodies.

60. Mr. MAYIRA (Rwanda) said that his Government endorsed the draft decision contained in document DP/RP/23, and supported the Department's activities in African countries, especially Rwanda.

61. Miss ANSTEE (Assistant Secretary-General for Technical Co-operation for Development) thanked delegations for their comments on the submitted documents and on the work of the Department. She said that the Department was often in the position of a poor relation, as the representative of Belgium had noted, so it was good to see the Council's support for and interest in its work. She appreciated the expressions of confidence from representatives of both developed and developing countries, and especially their remarks concerning paragraph 16 of document DP/RP/23 and the constraints facing the Department.

62. Responding to the concern expressed by the representative of Canada regarding the speed of activities, she said that the budget's rate of implementation showed that activities were being carried out faster. Although the Department had become more flexible, he had correctly stated that some of the problems it faced were not within its control. She agreed with him that, in the first instance, those problems had to be tackled directly between the Department and the other units concerned, but comments such as his would certainly help to bring about a favourable solution and she hoped would be fully recorded. With respect to his concern about the quality of the technical competence provided in some instances, she said it was inevitable in a programme as large as the Department's that top-level quality could not always be obtained, despite all efforts to that end. She hoped he would make specific criticisms so that an attempt could be made to deal with the problems. She agreed with his comments concerning the modification of programmes, fragmentation and the need to use technical services to the fullest

(Miss Anstee)

and not duplicate them elsewhere and she shared his view - and indeed had herself expressed the same thought in her intervention in the general debate - that there was a distinction between the financial function of the funding agency and the technical functions of the specialized department or agency; concentration of funds did not mean a parallel centralization of technical capacity. With regard to the comments made by the representative of Sierra Leone, she said that the Department attached special importance to the least developed countries. She shared his concern about the need to improve project quality and quantity and to reduce costs, and endorsed his comments regarding the streamlining of the United Nations development system and partnership between UNDP and its executing agencies.

63. She thanked the Chinese delegation for its support and was glad that its Government was pleased with the Department's work. One of the major concerns was to assist the Chinese Government in the census, which was a monumental operation. She hoped that the Department's co-operation would be helpful in bringing that endeavour to a successful conclusion. She also thanked the Chinese Government for hosting the study tours, and could vouch from her own experience as leader of the tour on integrated rural development that they provided a remarkable opportunity for mutual learning.

64. Concerning the representative of Fiji's statement that he hoped the island developing countries would not be forgotten, she wished to assure him of the Department's concern. That concern was demonstrated by the fact that it had arranged for a TCDC exchange involving a visit by officials from Fiji to Brazil to study ethanol techniques. Furthermore, at a recent meeting in New Delhi to discuss the intercountry programme for Asia and the Pacific, the Department had stressed that a significant effort should be made on behalf of the island developing countries.

65. Concerning the remarks made by the representative of India, she said that she was glad that the Government was satisfied with the co-operation furnished by the Department. The central water and power resource station project at Poona was not only successful but a good example of new dimensions, since the dynamism of the national project manager was largely responsible for its success. She agreed with the Indian representative that there was a need for better performance regarding the number of candidates from developing countries. Although the Department was trying to improve its recruitment techniques, and had introduced a computerized roster which provided a larger selection of highly qualified candidates, the solution of the problem was not entirely in its hands. The final decision was for recipient Governments and she reiterated that in 1980 the Department had submitted a higher proportion of candidates from developing countries, but unfortunately fewer had been accepted.

66. She had taken careful note of the view of the Swedish and Nordic Governments that it was important for the Regular Programme to have a separate identity. Owing to the Programme's small size, that was not always easy, but the Department constantly emphasized the complementary nature of that programme to other funds and tried to use them to reflect at the regional and country levels global priorities expressed by intergovernmental bodies, as requested by the Council the previous year.

/...

(Miss Anstee)

67. She had also taken note of the Argentine representative's comment on technical co-operation among developing countries, which was one of the Department's top priorities. She was glad that the Argentine Government was satisfied with the joint project being carried out with Paraguay.

68. She agreed with the representative of Guinea that the Department should strive for the closest possible co-operation with UNDP, and considered that the potential opportunities were very great, especially as senior colleagues from that organization had indicated strong support for such an approach.

69. The representative of Belgium had been right in stating that it would be useful if the Department could provide a more thorough analysis of the information provided in the Secretary-General's report. However, given the limitations of document length and of the Council's time, the report could stress only the most important points. She had noted a growing interest in the Department's activities, which was encouraging. She also agreed that the multilateral capacity of the Department should not be confused with any notion that it was merely residual in nature. She thanked the Belgian Government for its strong support in the provision of associate experts.

70. The problem of CAFRAD was indeed very important. She agreed with the Belgian representative's view that it provided services which would not otherwise be available, and thought that its serious crisis was perhaps caused by the fact that it was such an ambitious and complex programme. The Department was following that situation very closely, and was currently holding discussions with Governments, CAFRAD and UNDP in order to try to find a solution.

71. With regard to the Belgian representative's comments concerning the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, she said that, although that Fund was not part of the Department, there were close contacts between the two. Resources from the Department's share of the Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation had been earmarked for financing activities of interest to women, within projects financed from other services and executed by the Department. The Department consulted closely with the Fund on those activities and followed its suggestions.

72. In conclusion, she thanked the representative of Rwanda for the support of his Government.

PROGRAMME OF IMPLEMENTATION (continued)

(b) ASSISTANCE TO THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (DP/513)

73. Mr. DOO KINGUE (Assistant Administrator, Regional Director for Africa), introducing document DP/513, said that the Administrator intended to carry out a thorough review of all ongoing UNDP-financed projects of assistance to African liberation movements recognized by OAU. Consultations were being held with the Secretary-General of OAU on the modalities and timing of the review. The review

(Mr. Doo Kingue)

was to be completed by October, and an interagency meeting co-sponsored by OAU and UNDP would be held in the first half of December. It would be attended by representatives of the African liberation movements concerned, representatives of UNDP's participating and executing agencies and representatives of OAU and UNDP. It would consider the report on the review of ongoing projects as well as proposals prepared by the African liberation movements and United Nations agencies on the programme of assistance to be financed by UNDP during the third programming cycle. Thus, the meeting would provide UNDP with information to help it in planning further assistance for 1982-1986 to African liberation movements recognized by OAU.

74. As document DP/513 pointed out, the Administrator had been cautious in expanding further the programme of assistance to African liberation movements, for two reasons. First, there was uncertainty regarding the level of resources that would be available in 1982-1986, particularly since the resources of the United Nations Trust Fund for Assistance to Colonial Countries and Peoples were being exhausted and additional pledges had not been received for several years. Secondly, there was uncertainty as to when Namibia would become independent. Obviously, the longer it took Namibia to achieve independence, the longer UNDP's assistance to displaced Namibians would last. Appropriate provision would therefore have to be made for such assistance in the over-all budget of UNDP co-operation with African liberation movements. The Administrator intended to finance a study which would help the Namibians to plan properly the future development of their country. SWAPO was in favour of such a study, and consultations were being held on the matter with the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, whose co-operation was required in order for successful results to be achieved in that undertaking.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.