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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 724th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York  
on Friday, 19 June 1981, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. ABDULAH (Trinidad and Tobago)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

PROGRAMME OF IMPLEMENTATION (continued):

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

1. Mr. AMATHILA (Observer, South West Africa People's Organization) said that SWAPO shared the concern expressed in the Council about the dwindling financial resources of UNDP and the possible effect on ongoing projects and the role of the Programme in general. It was gratifying to note, however, that the Administrator's appeal for increased funds had elicited constructive remarks from the major donor countries. It was to be hoped that they would take steps to enable UNDP to attain its objective of strengthening the self-reliance of developing countries.

2. The people of Namibia were seeking to liberate themselves and at the same time to prepare to take over the instruments of government after independence. SWAPO, as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people, had been receiving assistance from United Nations organizations, particularly UNDP, for a number of years. UNDP projects for Namibia involved mainly research and training and were designed to enhance its capacity for self-reliance in all economic and social sectors. The largest of the projects (NAM/78/008) covered vocational training, and SWAPO believed that once that project became operational, consideration should be given to increasing its intake capacity and the number of areas in which training was provided; United Nations volunteers might be used to staff the project until suitable Namibians were available.

3. Skilled manpower development was, in fact, one of the areas on which SWAPO was focusing in order to minimize the disruption which sometimes occurred with independence owing to the lack of experienced or skilled manpower. It was accordingly appealing to UNDP to allow Namibians to work as programme officers in the UNDP offices in Luanda and Lusaka as a means of providing training for Namibians. Another way in which UNDP could significantly assist SWAPO would be to arrange for broader participation of its representatives in the sessions of the Governing Council. As matters stood, SWAPO was able to send only one person to the session. It was to be hoped that UNDP might consider making funds available in future to enable SWAPO to send a delegation which included specialists in the various issues discussed by the Council. Such an arrangement would help to produce a team of Namibians who were familiar with the United Nations development system and capable of contributing to its work after independence.

4. He considered unwarranted the negative view taken by some countries towards SWAPO's armed struggle to liberate Namibia. SWAPO had never used assistance from the United Nations development system in its war effort and had no intention of doing so. Moreover, SWAPO was engaged in a humanitarian effort to assist some 60,000 Namibians in Angola and Zambia, and for that purpose it required motor vehicles, spare parts and radio communication equipment. UNDP assistance in such forms was not used for military purposes and, in order to allay any fears that might exist on that score, diplomats, United Nations officials and journalists had

(Mr. Amathila, Observer, SWAPO)

been allowed to visit settlements run by SWAPO where medical and social services were provided.

5. It was in the interests of the developing countries and of SWAPO, in particular, for UNDP to be strong, efficiently run and capable of responding effectively to their many special problems. It was to be hoped that the Governing Council's 1976 decision, to the effect that assistance by UNDP and the executing agencies to African liberation movements recognized by OAU should be furnished rapidly and with maximum flexibility, would continue to enjoy the full support of Member States, especially the five Western members of the Contact Group which was working for the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). While their contacts were continuing, those Western States should not allow the living conditions of Namibians to deteriorate, and appealed to them to increase their contributions to UNDP for national liberation movements and Namibia and to do their utmost to ensure that all United Nations agencies responded effectively, positively and sympathetically to SWAPO's needs.

6. In conclusion, he stressed the importance of periodic consultations between SWAPO and UNDP and the need for flexibility on the part of UNDP field officers in responding to Namibia's special situation.

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES (continued):

(a) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (continued) (DP/527, DP/528 and Corr.1, DP/529, DP/530, DP/531 and Corr.1, DP/352 and Corr.1, DP/533, DP/534; DP/FPA/12 and Add.1-17)

7. Mr. LIPTAU (Federal Republic of Germany) observed that, although the working group established to consider various aspects of item 7 (a) had submitted its conclusions and certain other aspects had been dealt with in the Council itself on the Budgetary and Finance Committee, the UNFPA Work Plan, individual UNFPA programmes totalling \$147 million, and the Fund's approval authority had yet to be considered. He asked when those matters would be considered.

8. Mr. D'ORVILLE (Secretary of the Council) said that a draft decision on the report of the working group on item 7 (a) was to be considered at the following meeting. The UNFPA secretariat was also processing a number of draft decisions on the three outstanding issues mentioned by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany for consideration by the Council in conjunction with the report of the working group.

9. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director, UNFPA) said that he wished to pay a tribute to Mr. Gille, the Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, who was to retire at the end of 1981 after almost 31 years of service with the United Nations, 11 of them spent with UNFPA. Mr. Gille had made an invaluable contribution to UNFPA particularly towards developing the priority system, intercountry programmes, technical co-operation among developing countries and UNFPA's future role.

10. Mr. GILLE (Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA) expressed appreciation for the tribute paid to him and for the many years which he had spent working with UNFPA and the Governing Council.

(c) UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (continued) (DP/L.350)

11. Draft decision DP/L.350 was adopted.

(d) UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION (continued) (DP/538; DP/L.352)

Draft decision DP/L.352

12. Ms. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands), introducing draft decision DP/L.352, said that the decision reflected her delegation's earlier statement on the report of the Working Group of Government Experts and was based partly on that report. It endorsed the principle of vertical expansion of the Fund's activities, for instance, and also the replenishment formula, although it was her delegation's belief that the latter might erode the principle of self-financing. Her delegation could not, however, support the horizontal expansion of the Fund's activities. The Working Group had been asked to review the Fund's funding machinery and original mandate with a view to the possible inclusion of fuel resources exploration. Her delegation found the Group's review disappointing and believed that it had not covered the issue fully or come up with convincing arguments in favour of horizontal expansion of the Fund's activities. In view of the current resource crisis, the logical course seemed to be not to expand the Fund's activities for the time being. The idea of horizontal expansion should also be considered in the light of the forthcoming Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy. Since some delegations disagreed with the views of her delegation on that score, however, the wording of the relevant part of the draft decision was fairly general.

13. Mr. SHIBUYA (Japan) said that his delegation supported the conclusions of the Working Group of Government Experts and, consequently, the draft decision proposed by the Administrator (DP/538, para. 3). While it realized that the idea of the horizontal expansion of the Fund's activities caused some difficulties for the Netherlands and other delegations, it believed that such an expansion was vital in order to give impetus to the Fund's activities. The exploration of geothermal energy required the same technologies that were already in use for solid minerals exploration and would not, therefore, require large-scale additional funding. With regard to hydrocarbons exploration, the Working Group had simply recommended that such exploration should be given further consideration as and when the necessary funding became available. His delegation would therefore prefer subparagraphs (c) and (d) of the draft decision recommended in document DP/L.538 to appear in any Decision which the Council adopted on the subject. If other delegations could not agree to such a formula, however, his delegation was prepared to accept amendments to those subparagraphs.

14. Mr. LEIKVANG (Norway) endorsed the comments made by the representative of Japan. His country had participated in the Working Group of Government Experts and did not find the Group's proposals particularly drastic. His delegation could therefore support the draft decision recommended by the Administrator. He proposed

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(Mr. Leikvang, Norway)

that delegations which could not accept that draft decision as it stood and any other delegations which so wished should hold informal consultations with a view to arriving at a common position on the decision to be taken by the Governing Council.

15. Mr. FORNARI (Italy) supported that proposal.
  16. Mr. WINDSOR (United Kingdom) said that his delegation shared the conclusion of the Netherlands delegation on the horizontal expansion of the mandate of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration. Such a step would be premature, given the Revolving Fund's limited resources.
  17. Mr. MOUMOUNI (Niger) said that his delegation was not satisfied with draft decision DP/L.352, since it failed to take account of certain matters referred to in the Administrator's recommendation in paragraph 3 of his report (DP/538), in particular the expansion of the activities of the Fund to encompass geothermal energy and hydrocarbon exploration.
  18. The PRESIDENT said that more work was clearly needed on draft decision DP/L.352. He suggested that further discussion should be deferred until delegations had had an opportunity to consider the matter in informal consultations.
  19. It was so decided.
  - (g) UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL FUND FOR LAND-LOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued) (DP/541)
  20. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to adopt the recommendation made by the Administrator in document DP/541, paragraph 14.
  21. It was so decided.
  - (h) ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN COUNTRIES IN AFRICA AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION (continued) (DP/L.346, L.348 and L.349)
  22. Mr. AL-EBRAHIM (Kuwait) said that his Government had decided to make a cash grant of \$50 million for assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian region, while the Government of Saudi Arabia would contribute \$100 million.
  23. The PRESIDENT said that the Council welcomed those contributions.
- Draft decision DP/L.346
24. The PRESIDENT said that Guinea and the Niger had become sponsors of draft decision DP/L.346. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt that draft decision.
  25. It was so decided.

Draft decision DP/L.348

26. Mr. AHLANDER (Sweden), supported by Mr. WINTOP (Denmark), said that his delegation welcomed draft decision DP/L.348 but found paragraph 7 ambiguous. As it stood, that paragraph implied an increase in the staff of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office. The words "enhance the capacity" should be replaced by "strengthen the activities".

27. Mr. BLAIN (Gambia) said that paragraph 7 of the draft decision submitted by his delegation should be seen in the context of the expanded mandate of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office. Efforts to eliminate unnecessary administrative costs should not ignore the need for the activities of the Office to be effective. It was important for the capacity of the Office to be strengthened, and, in his view, the wording of paragraph 7 should accordingly remain unaltered.

28. Mr. AHLANDER (Sweden) said that he trusted that any increased activities would take place in the field, in which case the draft decision should stress activities rather than capacity, which implied some expansion at headquarters. It would be recalled that similar wording had led to disagreement in the case of the United Nations Volunteers.

29. Mr. LA MUNIERE (United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office) observed that the Office had not requested additional posts for the following biennium, despite an increased workload. The draft decision did not imply any increase in staffing.

30. After a brief discussion, in which Mr. BLAIN (Gambia), the PRESIDENT, Mr. AHLANDER (Sweden), Mr. ZIMMERMAN (United States of America), Mrs. VERVALCKE (Belgium), Mr. WINTOP (Denmark), Ms. MANNECK (Federal Republic of Germany) and Ms. SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) participated, Mr. BLAIN (Gambia) announced that, as a result of consultations between his delegation and the Swedish delegation, it had been agreed to revise paragraph 7 by adding the words "in the field" after the word "effectively" and the word "greater" before the words "use of resources available".

31. The PRESIDENT announced that the Niger and Guinea had become sponsors of draft decision DP/L.348.

32. Draft decision DP/L.348, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft decision DP/L.349

33. The PRESIDENT announced that the Niger and the Gambia had joined as sponsors of draft decision DP/L.349.

34. Draft decision DP/L.349 was adopted.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.