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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 26 June 1981, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. ABDULAH (Trinidad and Tobago)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS (continued)

(b) COUNTRY PROGRAMMES (continued) (DP/GC/BGD/R.3/RECOMMENDATION, DP/GC/BHU/R.3/RECOMMENDATION, DP/GC/MDV/R.3/RECOMMENDATION, DP/GC/NEP/R.3/RECOMMENDATION, DP/GC/PHI/R.3/RECOMMENDATION)

1. Mr. JOSEPH (Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific) said that all the comments made during the discussion had been carefully noted. The Administrator would observe carefully the following main points relating to the intercountry programme: the methodology of collective consultation in programme preparation and the mid-term review in 1983, the modalities mentioned in document DP/523 for improving project execution, the financial management schedule recorded in document DP/523, annex I, and the concern expressed regarding certain projects. In accordance with paragraph 20 of the consensus and the relevant decision of the thirteenth session of the Governing Council, those projects would be returned to the Council for approval.
2. Referring to the comments made by the representative of China, he said that that country had a fine understanding of the regional programme and participated actively in it. He looked forward in the third cycle to solid developments in the intercountry programme in collaboration with China. Concerning the New Zealand delegation's comments on the subregional programme in the South Pacific, he said that commitments for the prospection project after 1984 would be discussed at the mid-term review in 1983. The caveats for the Samoa regional centre had been carefully noted, as well as those relating to the South Pacific Fisheries Commission. The Bureau for Asia and the Pacific greatly appreciated New Zealand's comprehension and support for the modalities of project execution.
3. The representative of Malaysia had referred to projects other than those contained in the regional programme and urged that such projects should be further expanded. Those comments would be considered at the review in 1983. The Bureau greatly appreciated the host facilities provided by the Malaysian Government for the Asian and Pacific Development Centre.
4. The support expressed by the Japanese delegation for the regional typhoon programme had been duly noted and would be recorded at the review in 1983. He had appreciated the comments made by the representative of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, and wished to assure the incoming Executive Secretary of the Bureau's full co-operation.
5. The representative of the United States had referred to specific projects in the intercountry programme. The Administrator wished to assure him that, in accordance with paragraph 20 of the consensus and the relevant decision of the thirteenth session, all controversial projects would be resubmitted to the Council for its consideration at a future session.

(Mr. Joseph)

6. Turning to specific country programmes, he said that there were four least developed countries among those submitting programmes at the current session. Furthermore, the programme for Benin was the third largest in the entire system. He had appreciated the comments made by the representatives of Japan and Canada and would convey them to the resident representatives and the countries concerned. He had noted the comments made by the representatives of Belgium and Cuba, and expressed gratitude to the delegations of Benin and Bhutan for having reaffirmed the excellent co-operation between their co-ordinating and sectoral ministries and UNDP. He was sure that the programmes would advance safely through the next cycle.
7. With regard to the country programme for Viet Nam, the comments made by the representatives of Belgium, China, the Federal Republic of Germany, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, Canada, Pakistan, Greece, Italy and Turkey had been noted in full. The concerns expressed by the delegations of India, Laos, Bulgaria, Benin and the Soviet Union had also been fully recorded. All the comments, both on the percentage of the over-all equipment component in the programme and on specific projects contained in it, would be duly taken into account. He had noted the Indian delegation's observation that output rather than input should be the purpose of a project, and that UNDP should be responsive to the diverse development needs of different developing countries. He had also noted that many delegations had urged that the distinction between technical assistance and capital assistance should be observed.
8. Referring to the country programmes in general, he said that the 54 new projects for the fifth cycle would be formulated by technical missions from the specialized and executing agencies concerned. Those missions would be clearly advised of the concerns expressed by the Council at the current session and would be asked to formulate projects having regard only to the best design of execution methods and the amount and type of inputs necessary for optimum project performance. The component composition of the projects and other data would be summarized, analysed and reported on at the Council's next session. Finally, projects which the Administrator might deem to have political implications would be submitted to the Council for its approval.
9. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt paragraph 15 of DP/GC/BGD/R.3/RECOMMENDATION, paragraph 9 of DP/GC/BHU/R.3/RECOMMENDATION, paragraph 9 of DP/GC/MDV/R.3/RECOMMENDATION, paragraph 14 of DP/GC/NEP/R.3/RECOMMENDATION and paragraph 10 of DP/GC/PHI/R.3/RECOMMENDATION.
10. It was so decided
11. Mr. HERRERA VEGAS (Argentina), supported by Mrs. BALLESTER (Cuba), said that document DP/562, paragraph 65, contained a long draft decision on the rationalization and streamlining of the Council's work. Many of its provisions were intimately related to matters being considered in the Working Group, and his delegation accordingly proposed that consideration of that draft decision should be referred to the Working Group, after which it could be returned to the Council for discussion.

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12. Mrs. VALVECKE (Belgium) said that, in view of the time constraints, the Council should request the Working Group merely to supplement the work that the Council had already done on the draft decision.

13. Mr. HARE (Canada) said that he fully supported the Argentine proposal. He announced that draft decision DP/L.355, which had been submitted by his delegation, had not won a consensus and had accordingly been withdrawn.

14. The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat would be requested to provide the Working Group with a copy of the amendments adopted by the Council. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to request the Working Group to complete its work on the draft decision so that the Council could consider it before the close of the current session.

15. It was so decided.

(c) INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES (continued) (DP/523)

16. Mrs. BALLESTER (Cuba) said that her delegation had noted with satisfaction that the intercountry programme was the result of consultations during which the countries concerned had participated directly in determining priorities. That procedure had also been used for the first time in other regions, and was an important step forward in the use of resources in accordance with regional development interests. The implementation of the programme described in document DP/523 would contribute to solving many of the development difficulties faced by the region, and her delegation accordingly supported it.

17. In the discussion relating to the country programme for Viet Nam, many delegations had stated that the adoption of the draft decision had stretched the consensus to the limit. Her delegation had also found it extremely difficult to accept a compromise formula which subjected a State Member of the United Nations to monitoring which exceeded the scope of UNDP. During its 12 years of membership on the Council, Cuba's participation had always been constructive. It had carefully avoided introducing political concerns into the work of the Council. However, in discussing the country programme for Viet Nam, other delegations had revealed their political bias crudely and in menacing tones. It was for that reason that her delegation felt entitled to express its disgust at the flagrant and politically motivated attack on a country like Viet Nam that had no strength other than its will, no resources other than the honesty and courage of its people and no currency other than its boundless love for liberty, for which it had had to struggle over centuries. She was referring exclusively to the statements of representatives who had attempted to block UNDP assistance for Viet Nam.

18. Since Viet Nam was in an unusual development situation, it had to use UNDP resources not only to create a solid base for its development but also to recover from the destructive effects of the war. Her country had long admired Viet Nam and had extremely close and fruitful technical and economic relations with it. Viet Nam's extraordinary efforts to achieve development had to be made in the face of all types of attacks and a press campaign aimed at deceiving the peoples of the world concerning the true situation there. Despite the difficulties, the Vietnamese people loved liberty above all and were prepared to struggle to achieve it.

(Mrs. Ballester, Cuba)

19. Co-operation for development could not be used as an instrument to subjugate peoples. The developing countries might still be suffering from hunger, deprivation and the effects of both natural and human disasters, but they had progressed and had acquired a sense of dignity. The era of charity used to alleviate hunger and thereby to control weak Governments had given way to frank and honest international relations guided by a sincere, disinterested spirit of co-operation and respect. The use of bludgeoning and blackmailing in international relations was a thing of the past and must not be revived.

20. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of document DP/523 and of the introductory statement by the Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.

21. It was so decided.

(a) RELEVANT TRENDS AND PROBLEMS IN THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMES (continued) (DP/522)

22. Mr. WIESEBACH (Assistant Administrator and Director for Programme Policy and Evaluation) said that the Secretariat was making efforts to ensure the Council's fullest possible involvement in the country programming process, both at the time of approval and at a later stage. The trends and problems report was a key element in that process.

23. In reply to the remarks by the representatives of Sweden and Denmark that it would be interesting to have a similar report covering all or nearly all of the country programmes relating to the third cycle, he said that a more comprehensive analysis of the trends in country programming could be provided when the many programmes to be considered by the Council in 1982 and 1983 were analysed. With regard to the absence of certain global strategies from the analysis, which had been pointed out by the Swedish delegation, he said that the Bureau for Programme Policy and Evaluation had naturally concentrated on those global priorities which had been referred to in the programmes submitted for the Council's approval. When a larger number of programmes was reviewed, a wider range of global concerns would be found. An examination of the extent to which Governments took global priorities into account in their national development plans, as suggested by a delegation, was not within UNDP's mandate. The Bureau had taken note of the suggestion to include in future country programme documents a reference to the extent to which past experience in technical co-operation had helped to determine the contents of the new programme, and that point would be reflected in the new instructions on country programmes.

24. Since the second cycle, there had been an increased concentration of resources in certain sectors or larger projects. On the other hand, some Governments had made internal arrangements which ensured an equitable distribution of available IPF resources over various economic sectors. As the Indian delegation had noted, many Governments wished to associate several sectors with the UNDP programme.

25. With regard to the proportion of equipment in UNDP-assisted projects, the draft decision on the matter contained a proposal for an in-depth study of the

(Mr. Wiesebach)

subject and a report on it to the Council in 1982. At that time, a more extensive debate could be held on the issue. Replying to the question by the Swedish delegation concerning the procedure whereby equipment furnished by UNDP remained its property until the end of the project, he said that ownership of equipment was less important than provision at the design stage for the proper training of national staff who would be using the equipment. Since 1976, UNDP had made it possible for project equipment to be transferred to the Government at a much earlier stage. Furthermore, in the case of government execution, equipment became the recipient country's property upon delivery.

26. The Bureau appreciated the support expressed by the French delegation for joint programming and hoped that it would become a more important feature of programming in the third cycle. It had noted the three points raised by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning country programmes as a whole, and hoped that its efforts to present country programmes in a timely fashion would facilitate both the discussion of sectoral priorities and over-all co-ordination.

27. The Bureau endorsed the conclusion reached by the representative of New Zealand concerning the way in which UNDP could best help to ensure that all social groups benefitted equally from development, and had taken note of his comment on the need to take women's roles into account at the design stage. It had also noted the New Zealand Government's readiness to co-operate, at the request of recipient Governments, in the harmonization of the activities of bilateral donors with those of the United Nations system reflected in the country programme.

28. The Bureau appreciated the Indian delegation's general support for the approach to country programming envisaged for the third cycle and hoped, in close collaboration with individual Governments and the organizations of the United Nations system, further to improve the programme's over-all quality.

(d) GLOBAL AND INTERREGIONAL PROGRAMMES (DP/524; DP/PROJECTS/R.14 and Add.1-6)

29. Mr. MASHLER (Senior Director, Division for Global and Interregional Projects) said that the report on the global and interregional programme, 1982-1986 (DP/524) outlined the main priority areas and the principal activities proposed for support during the third programming cycle. For further information, a conference room paper listing the individual global and interregional projects assisted during the first and second cycles had been prepared.

30. The global and interregional programme submitted to the Governing Council was based on very extensive consultations with Governments and the United Nations specialized agencies. The instructions relating to the preparation of intercountry programmes had been carefully followed. All members of the Council and a number of Governments not currently represented in the Council had been invited individually to submit their views regarding the global and interregional programme priorities for the third cycle. Similar invitations had been addressed to all the organizations of the United Nations system and to a number of research centres and scientific bodies outside the system. In-house consultations had been held with

(Mr. Mashler)

the regional bureaux and other concerned units at UNDP headquarters. UNDP resident representatives had been requested to present their suggestions. On the basis of the more than 100 replies received, a first draft of the document had been prepared and circulated to the same Governments and organizations. That draft had been reviewed by the Advisory Panel on the Global Programme and had been revised to take account of the additional comments received from Governments, organizations and the Advisory Panel.

31. From that process, a clear consensus had emerged that the areas requiring attention at the global and interregional levels were agriculture, health and energy. That view concurred with the views of UNDP and of the Division for Global and Interregional Projects. Hunger and malnutrition continued to afflict hundreds of millions throughout the developing world. The food balance in many countries remained precarious and population growth would continue to exert relentless pressure on food supplies. The battle against sickness and premature death in many regions of the developing world had scarcely begun. The traditional supplies of energy in relation to demand were coming under increasingly severe pressure. The resultant shortages and rising costs had begun to cause severe dislocation in many countries. There was a particularly urgent need for research on new sources of energy, as well as for assistance to Governments in energy planning and conservation. It was therefore proposed that the bulk of the global IPF resources during the third cycle should be allocated to research and development activities in the three aforementioned areas and that a sizable share of the interregional IPF should be devoted to energy issues and increased food production, principally through the further development of world fisheries.

32. Some members of the Council might have preferred a more diversified programme that would include a larger number of priority areas. UNDP was fully aware that developing countries faced other grave problems and had suggested a number of other important priorities. The more significant ones were referred to in paragraphs 47 and 48 of document DP/524.

33. The amount of resources available to UNDP for global research made it necessary to concentrate on a few selected areas of high significance. Global research into basic development issues was costly and had to be sustained over a relatively long period if significant break-throughs were to be expected. Given the uncertain resource situation facing UNDP and the strong global inflationary trends, it would not be prudent to scatter the funds available over more than three or four main areas. That did not mean that no work could be initiated in new programme areas during the third cycle. Initiation of work in one new area had in fact been recommended by the Administrator for approval by the Council at its current session. It nevertheless remained true that the scope for diversifying the programme beyond agriculture, health and energy, at least for the next three years, was very limited. Activities in other areas would have to be confined largely to exploratory and preparatory work for major new activities in the fourth cycle.

34. The proposed activities under the global programme and the interregional programme represented a balance between ongoing activities that needed to be continued for some time and new activities to be started. Significant new

(Mr. Mashler)

activities proposed within the agricultural research component included research on food systems and policies, research on tropical wheat and an investigation into climatic factors as they affected rice production. Those new research areas would complement research currently under way on crop improvement and would facilitate the application of research results. The research work currently under way in the area of biological fixation of nitrogen was to be given a new dimension within the framework of a global master plan.

35. Within the health sector of the programmes, support was envisaged for the strengthening of primary health care programmes, including the development of learning materials and the training of personnel. That represented a significant new and complementary activity. Other new activities included programmes designed to further the goals of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. Proposed activities in that area included major support, under the interregional programme, for the improvement and expansion of hand-pump programmes. Assistance to Governments in the design and implementation of other low-cost water and sanitation technologies would be continued. Other forms of support for the Decade were being explored, with primary emphasis on the development of the human resources required and on evaluation research.

36. The activities proposed within the energy sector represented a new and significant dimension of the programme. The one major exception was the global project for the testing and demonstration of small-scale solar-powered pumping units. UNDP proposed to broaden the scope of that programme by including work on other technologies for new and renewable sources of energy. A recommendation to that effect had been submitted to the Council at its current session. Other major new activities identified for support included an assessment in some 60 countries of technical assistance and investment needs in the energy sector, as well as the development of an international network of institutions in developing countries for the training of energy planners and policy analysts. The Division for Global and Interregional Projects and the Energy Account were collaborating in the funding of those two activities.

37. The areas of trade and economic development and world fisheries development would continue to receive priority during the third cycle. The types of activities to be supported in those areas would, however, undergo substantial reorientation in the light of changing needs. International trade issues of the traditional type would receive less emphasis in favour of increased assistance in all aspects of economic co-operation among developing countries, with greater priority being given to "South-South" relationships. That reorientation reflected the views of Governments and agencies regarding programme priorities with respect to the international economy and the new international economic order.

38. In paragraph 72 of document DP/524, it was suggested that one of the new activities of the third cycle should be debt management within the context of external sector planning. Discussions with the agencies had revealed that such services would not have to be provided by means of the interregional IPF, since other means of technical assistance were readily available to cover the needs. The Administrator had concluded that the activity should be dropped from the interregional programme during the third cycle. The

(Mr. Mashler)

39. In the area of world fisheries development, the kinds of interregional technical support to be provided during the third cycle would undergo important modifications corresponding to the fundamental changes in the ocean régime brought about by such developments as the recent introduction of exclusive economic zones by most coastal nations. Such developments had created urgent new demands for technical co-operation, particularly in the areas of planning, resource management and the training of national personnel in all aspects of the development of exclusive economic zones. A fuller explanation of the trade and development component and the fisheries component of the programme was contained in paragraphs 69 to 76 and paragraphs 77 to 82 of document DP/524.

40. While the main priority areas within the global and interregional programme remained largely the same as in previous cycles, the programme was nevertheless a dynamic and evolving one that was constantly being adjusted to changing development needs as perceived by developing countries and the international community.

41. Considerable initial progress had been made in elaborating the expanded international programme of research and development on cotton, a proposal sponsored by UNDP for several years in co-operation with the World Bank and the Rockefeller Foundation. A number of complications had arisen which severely limited the power of the sponsors to contribute further to the speedy establishment of the programme. The project had become closely intertwined with the commodity discussions on cotton under the auspices of UNCTAD. A group of developing countries felt that the international programme on cotton should become an integral part of a comprehensive international cotton agreement and that the negotiating conference for the programme should take place only under the auspices of UNCTAD. The sponsors had come to the conclusion that the best course would be to transmit the proposal to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and to request him to convene a negotiating conference. That had been done by a letter dated 29 April 1981. A project report was under preparation and would be available shortly.

42. In implementing the various activities, UNDP would make every effort to conform to the recommendations contained in the Administrator's report on the evaluation of the global programme submitted to the Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session. The recommendation concerning the establishment of the Advisory Panel on the Global Programme had already been implemented. In February 1981, the Panel had broadly endorsed document DP/524. It would meet later in 1981 to advance the design of specific activities and assist in identifying some new areas in which preparatory work might usefully be initiated.

43. A second major recommendation of the evaluation report was that global research activities should be linked as closely as possible to national programmes and contribute to the building up of national capabilities in science and technology. During the past year, UNDP had made a special effort to move in that direction by increasing training opportunities within the various projects under way, by organizing conferences and workshops on research methodology and results and, in some cases, by providing modest grants to selected national institutions in support of collaborative research. Activities of that nature would play an increasingly important role and represent an integral part of all future activities. However,

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in view of the limited funds available for the global programme, a much larger effort had to be made by donors, as well as by the Governments of developing countries, to mobilize additional resources to strengthen national institutions and indigenous scientific capacity.

44. A third significant recommendation was that global and interregional activities should be linked as closely as possible to regional and country projects supported by UNDP in the same activity areas. Some progress had already been made as regards energy projects, economic co-operation among developing countries, and international fisheries management and development. UNDP was studying other activity areas of mutual interest to its various units in order to determine what mechanisms would guarantee a proper linkage of country and intercountry activities.

45. UNDP would continue to ensure that the results of global research and interregional demonstration and evaluation projects were disseminated on a timely basis to participating countries and donors through publications, workshops and seminars.

46. The choices for funding had been made in the light of the programme's strongly humanitarian character. The global and interregional programme had been instrumental in creating no fewer than seven multidonor consortia, through which the Division had been able to attract substantial additional resources and to deal with the issues effectively and economically. It had been able to do so with minimal overhead costs and without constantly increasing the staff.

47. The Administrator had recommended for the approval of the Governing Council the six global projects described in the addenda to document DP/PROJECTS/R.14(Add.1-6). Most of the proposals were designed to follow up ongoing global projects with which members of the Council were familiar. Very substantial progress had been made in all cases, but some additional work was needed. In the case of projects GLO/81/004 (Development of long-range means of control of crop and livestock pests and diseases), GLO/81/002 (West African sorghum and millet improvement programme) and GLO/78/009 (Research, training and production programme for nutritional quality maize), the most pressing needs were for expanded support of activities aimed at strengthening the growing links between those research activities and national programmes. That required an expansion of training activities, in addition to continued support of selected areas of research.

48. Project GLO/80/005 (Special programme for research and training in tropical diseases) had been developed in a very impressive manner over a short period of time. Full achievement of the ambitious objectives would clearly require continued support for some time to come. Current UNDP assistance approved by the Governing Council in January 1978 would extend until the end of 1982. A recommendation for further support had been submitted to the Council at its current session because a system of biennial budgeting had recently been adopted by the co-operating parties. As one of the co-sponsors, UNDP should be in a position to pledge support for 1982 and 1983 at the pledging conference later in 1981. That would not be possible unless further assistance was approved by the Governing Council.

(Mr. Mashler)

49. The one-year extension of project GLO/78/004 (Testing and demonstration of small-scale solar-powered pumping systems) was intended as a bridging operation to a proposed second phase, based on more detailed analysis of the results of the current phase, which had only recently become available. It was also proposed that in the year ahead there should be an investigation of the need for testing and demonstration of some other technologies for renewable sources of energy.

50. Project GLO/80/004 (Research and development in integrated resource recovery) broke new ground within the global programme. The proposal had elicited widespread interest among the Governments and organizations to which it had been circulated, as well as valuable suggestions for improving the design of the project. Although the Governing Council was requested to approve the proposal at the current session, full implementation would not commence until the Administrator was fully satisfied that the approach to be followed would produce the desired results.

51. Mr. TORAASEN (Norway), referring to the Administrator's project recommendation contained in document DP/PROJECTS/R.14/Add.2, said that the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology was a unique, multidisciplinary institution, which had close links with the international scientific community. It had proved to be a leading institution for scientific research and for training. Its two major tasks were to strengthen the endogenous scientific capacity of the third world and to develop methods for ecologically sound control of some of the most serious pests in the tropics.

52. Any meaningful long-term planning required some assurance that funds would be available for the planning period. His delegation had therefore noted with satisfaction the ongoing work to establish a consortium of interested bilateral and multilateral donors with a view to securing long-term financial support for the Centre. It was hoped that such co-operation among donors would lead to a rationalization of the evaluation process, which had so far been burdensome for the donors and for the Centre. The time the Centre spent receiving 11 evaluation missions in one year could be used more productively. It was also hoped that a well-organized consortium would convince donors that an effective way to support the Centre was through financial assistance. His Government had donated 10 million Norwegian kroner for the period 1978-1982.

53. His delegation supported the Administrator's project recommendation concerning the Centre.

54. Mr. GADEL HAK (Egypt) said his delegation was pleased that UNDP recognized the gravity of the problems facing developing countries as a result of the sharp increase in their external debt. It was also pleased to note from paragraph 72 of document DP/524 that an interregional project would, on request, help the developing countries to manage their external debt. Egypt was, however, disappointed to learn that some delegations had second thoughts about that matter. Failure to assist the developing countries in that regard would be inconsistent with resolution 222 (XXI) of the Trade and Development Board, in which the Board had agreed on detailed features that should guide future debt negotiations and had made it clear that any debtor country could make use of appropriate international

(Mr. Gadel Hak, Egypt)

organizations which could provide an objective and comprehensive analysis of its economic situation, taking into account its development objectives. In the absence of assistance from the competent international organizations, some developing countries had resorted to commercial consultancy, at very high cost. UNCTAD could be very objective with regard to debt management because it was not a creditor institution and was concerned with the long-term development objectives of countries. His delegation reaffirmed the priority attached by African countries to the problem of the external debt and trusted that the Governing Council would approve the text of document DP/524 as it stood.

55. The UNCTAD Special Committee on Preferences had requested his delegation to convey to the Governing Council the Committee's concern regarding the future of UNDP-financed technical assistance under the generalized system of preferences. There was no clear reference in document DP/524 to such a contribution by UNDP for the third cycle. The withdrawal of the UNDP contribution would lead to the disappearance of the project focal points, which were of great importance to the developing countries' utilization of concessions. Withdrawal of the UNDP contribution would also discourage developed countries from continuing to extend additional bilateral support to assist the developing countries in using fully the tariff concessions. His delegation therefore requested the Governing Council to agree that the UNDP contribution to the operational activities carried out by UNCTAD under the generalized system of preferences should at least be at the same level as during the current cycle.

56. In paragraph 60 of document DP/524, mention was made of the advisory services of UNCTAD and the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization. Developing countries needed advice for the infrastructure of maritime transport. The interregional advisers financed by UNDP had proved useful and their services should be maintained.

57. Mr. SCHMID (Austria) complimented the Administration on the documentation and particularly on document DP/524, which conveyed a clear sense of priorities. His delegation was in general agreement with those priorities. Global programmes should be research-oriented and reflect the developing countries' needs by taking fully into account world-wide priorities formulated, for example, at sectoral conferences. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that it had been recognized in paragraph 22 of the document on the global and interregional programme (DP/524) that the research programme must be closely linked to national efforts if it was to be truly successful. His delegation also welcomed the clear concentration on the broad areas of agriculture, health and energy.

58. His delegation noted with satisfaction UNDP's continued involvement in the financing of the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology and the fact that the sum to be allocated to the Centre was greater than earlier contributions. With regard to the International Livestock Centre for Africa, he said that Austria had a number of bilateral co-operation programmes in that field and fully supported UNDP's involvement in global activities in that area. His Government was also greatly interested in studies of low-cost water supply projects - an area that deserved special priority - and would support any activity in that field.

(Mr. Schmid, Austria)

59. Turning to interregional activities, he said that the special public works programme was geared to meeting the needs of the neediest sectors of the population and therefore met with his delegation's full approval. Austria was about to enter into a multi-bilateral arrangement with a special public works programme to finance a project, probably in Cape Verde.

60. The competent authorities in his country had examined the national household survey capability programme with great interest. That project was a venture in institution-building which contributed directly to self-reliance by laying the foundations for a more efficient utilization of available resources and it was also an undertaking in which the entire United Nations system was involved. It therefore deserved particular attention.

61. International trade was one of the priority areas on which the interregional programme was focused. It involved a number of issues that lent themselves to UNDP support. Referring to only one of those issues, he said that his delegation had noted with some regret that no particular mention had been made of the technical assistance provided so far in connexion with the generalized system of preferences. As the representative of Egypt had pointed out, the UNCTAD Special Committee on Preferences had adopted a resolution recommending that UNDP should continue funding the project at a level which would enable the project to continue to be a focal point for the dissemination of information on the generalized system of preferences. Austria was one of the main bilateral contributors to that project, which in 1980 had attracted contributions totalling just under \$200,000 of which less than 25 per cent had come from UNDP resources. He therefore supported the proposal made by the representative of Egypt that UNDP should continue to participate in the funding of the project. Finally, he expressed deep appreciation to the Director of the Division for Global and Interregional Projects and his staff for the essential services which they provided in a most efficient manner.

62. Miss SCHELTEMA (Netherlands) noted with satisfaction that some of her delegation's earlier remarks had been incorporated in the new document relating to the global and interregional programme (DP/524). While her delegation could on the whole support the suggested activities, it had had some difficulty in studying the document properly because it had not had the project documents at hand. Its comments were therefore on the rather broad outlines given in the document. Furthermore, her delegation had noticed that virtually no financial indications were given. While realizing the difficulty of making reliable financial projections for the third cycle, her delegation felt that it would have been helpful to have an idea of the relative importance of priority areas such as the social sector. Her delegation was a little fearful that social development might suffer severely from financial cuts in the next cycle.

63. Accordingly, while not wishing to propose major alterations in the programme, she requested the Administrator to take her comments into account when preparing new proposals under the programme, and to make all project documents available to interested Governments upon request. Her delegation also requested that the Administrator should report at the next session of the Council on the relative attention being given to the different priority sectors as compared to each other as well as compared with the second cycle.

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(Miss Scheltema, Netherlands)

64. Finally, her delegation was aware that UNCTAD was worried about the withdrawal of UNDP's assistance to the project relating to assistance to the developing countries for full utilization of the generalized system of preferences. Her delegation sympathized with the reasoning that had led to that withdrawal; however, she suggested that the Council might ask UNDP to reduce its aid in that area gradually so that UNCTAD might attract other sources of financing to fill that gap.

65. Mr. EL FAKI (Observer for the Sudan) said he appreciated and supported the role of the Division for Global and Interregional Projects and of UNDP in the area of global and interregional programme. Commenting on the programme as outlined in document DP/524, he reiterated his delegation's support for the policy adopted by the Council since its ninth session, namely, that the IPF apportioned for the global programme be utilized for research-oriented activities addressed to important development issues and problems of high priority that could be expected to yield results beneficial to a wide spectrum of developing countries. Likewise, he noted with full appreciation that high priority had been given to agriculture, health and energy as had been the case in the second cycle. The acceleration of agricultural production was of paramount importance and should receive more concerted, individual and collective, efforts. He was pleased to note that UNDP was placing more emphasis on those three vital areas. In that respect, his delegation had been gratified to hear Dr. Abdus Salam introducing the Manifesto against hunger and under-development signed by 53 Nobel Prize laureates (DP/SR.729). His delegation fully shared the concerns they had expressed and supported their timely call for a genuine effort to end the silent massacre of human beings, particularly in Africa and Asia.

66. His delegation supported the emphasis placed on higher impact activities in sectors which required broad international collaboration and which could be closely tied to UNDP-supported activities at the regional and country levels. The priority given to ocean fisheries and international trade was well deserved. His delegation noted with appreciation UNDP's emphasis on interregional trade and development activities to make them more responsive to basic concerns of the developing countries. The complexity of the problems faced by developing countries in that sector called, more than ever before, for greater assistance from UNDP and other agencies of the United Nations system. His delegation sincerely hoped that the provision of advisory and analytical services to developing countries in the trade and development sector would continue to be emphasized.

67. It had been happy to note the new initiative relating to debt management referred to in paragraph 72 and shared the view expressed by the representative of Egypt in that regard. Since many developing countries were suffering under the debt burden incurred as a result of economic and other circumstances beyond their control, they should receive every assistance from all sources. While appreciating the role played by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other entities, his delegation felt that the idea of having a variety of sources of advisory assistance based on a variety of forms of co-operation would not lead to waste, particularly since the new initiative would be carried out in consultation with those entities. His delegation therefore trusted that the Council would endorse that constructive initiative and that the proposed activities would be formulated in the near future.

(Mr. El Faki)

68. Finally, the observation made by the representative of Egypt concerning the lack of clear reference to the contribution of UNDP to UNCTAD technical assistance activities under the generalized system of preferences was worthy of note. His delegation hoped that short-term advisory missions to the developing countries would be continued.

69. Mr. SEALY (Trinidad and Tobago) said that his delegation very much regretted the suggestion that the project referred to in paragraph 72 should be dropped. The purpose of that interregional project was to enable UNDP to assist developing countries, upon request, to manage their external debt and to prepare for participation in multilateral debt reorganization meetings where such meetings became necessary. Since developing countries might not have all the expertise they required to defend their interest at such meetings, UNDP assistance for that purpose would seem essential if the meetings were to lead to a solution that was equitable to both sides. Accordingly, he supported the Egyptian proposal that the Council should approve the programme as outlined in document DP/524.

70. Mr. GIBSON (New Zealand) expressed his Government's warm appreciation for the financial and professional co-operation extended by UNDP to the geothermal institute in Auckland. His Government would ensure that the Institute continued to offer courses and training that were well designed to meet the needs of countries seeking to develop their geothermal expertise.

71. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that his delegation was pleased with the information provided to the Council, particularly in document DP/524. It was happy to note that the global and interregional programme accurately reflected the priorities established by the international community, the General Assembly and the various sectoral conferences convened under the auspices of the United Nations, and that all the major issues which had been the subject of conferences in the 1970s were reflected in the research programme.

72. The criteria for the selection of activities outlined in paragraph 34 were acceptable to his delegation, although it would have liked to see the programme go beyond research activities to include issues more intimately related to the problem of interdependency, structural adjustments, protectionism, trade, development and finance, which were the issues of the 1980s and which were of interest to all countries. That would require expansion of the research programme and would be very positive, given the recent initiative for the launching of global negotiations.

73. His delegation was largely in agreement with the kinds of activities listed in paragraphs 69 to 76 relating to the interregional projects. It welcomed the emphasis on trade and development and was happy to see that the North-South dialogue continued to receive attention, as did issues relating to international monetary reform. His delegation understood the reasons why, as stated in paragraph 71, work on multilateral trade negotiations might have to be curtailed.

74. The project referred to in paragraph 72 was of particular importance to a large number of developing countries, since one of the most important problems facing such

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(Mr. Khan, Pakistan)

countries was their external debt. UNCTAD had acquired some valuable experience in the field of external debt management and had evolved guidelines and features for debt relief operations. As UNDP was the central funding and co-ordinating body for technical assistance, it would be most appropriate for it to finance the technical assistance programme referred to in the paragraph. Since agreement had been reached with IMF and the World Bank to ensure that there was no duplication, the Council should not be concerned on that score. His delegation fully supported the project.

75. Regarding the continued funding of the technical assistance provided by UNCTAD in respect of the generalized system of preferences, he said that UNDP financing was critical and that UNDP support for the project should be continued as long as necessary. His delegation generally supported the projects outlined in paragraphs 69 to 76. He suggested that the Council should hear the views on external indebtedness and the generalized system of preferences of the representative of UNCTAD, who could inform the Council what was required of UNCTAD in that field and what importance UNCTAD attached to the subject.

76. Mrs. VERVALCKE (Belgium) said that there had often been talk of the lack of understanding and of co-ordination between UNDP and other agencies, but the very positive fact that co-operation between those bodies, had given birth to some of the major and most successful programmes, was not given sufficient publicity. The success of such programmes was also in large part due to the dynamic efforts of sponsors, and of the Director, to mobilize the resources required.

77. Her delegation endorsed all six of the projects outlined in the global and interregional programme. In view of the fact that the programme received only a limited share of UNDP resources, it was right that it should concentrate on priorities of particular concern to the least developed group of countries. She suggested that, in selecting future projects, more attention should be given to those designed to assist women to participate more fully in development, since that was an aspect which had been missing from the programme in the past.

78. Mrs. ANTONINI (Venezuela) said that, given the current critical international economic situation, one of the major problems for developing countries was their external debt. Given the structural character of the problem, and failing thorough-going reform of the present international economic order, each country had the duty to make every effort to seek remedies in accordance with its needs; thus it was gratifying that the external sector planning aspect of the programme included an interregional project to assist developing countries to manage their external debt. The project, which was already operating satisfactorily within UNCTAD, would not be in competition with the facilities provided by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, but would offer an alternative for the economically weaker developing countries to the services of commercial banks at market rates. The possibility that the project might be discontinued was a matter for grave concern, a concern which had also been expressed recently by the Group of 77. Before a final decision was taken, there should be full consultations with representative delegations involved in order to obtain a clearer idea of how necessary the project was for developing countries.

79. Mr. GONZALEZ (Mexico) welcomed the fact that the programme gave priority to issues of great importance for his country, such as agriculture and health. However, the current international situation called for concentration on interdisciplinary issues of overriding importance, of which the promotion of economic and technical co-operation between countries of Africa and Latin America, the first interregional multilateral programme of its kind in the context of TCDC, was an excellent example.

80. He welcomed the long-term approach to the problems of developing countries reflected in paragraph 48 of DP/524, and especially the programme relating to the sectors of industry and trade, with its focus on the relationship between industrial growth, exports and trade and related social, institutional and material aspects.

81. The International Development Strategy had recommended that assistance should be given to all developing countries for improving transport infrastructure, in terms of training, safety at sea, the prevention of marine pollution and development of port facilities. In that connexion, UNDP funding was a decisive factor in the project, co-ordinated jointly with the IOCARIBE project of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, devoted to the prevention of pollution and research into the resources of the region, in the programme of technical co-operation for maritime personnel training, TRAINMAR, already operating in Africa and Asia, which would be of great benefit to his region, and in a number of IMCO long-term projects aimed at improving the training and expanding the capabilities of maritime personnel, and promoting the growth of the shipbuilding industry in the Caribbean. In some countries of the region there was also work under way to improve port facilities, in which UNDP support was also vital. All those projects served to illustrate the importance of expanding maritime capabilities. The TRAINMAR project should be extended and, in all its aspects, the development of transport and communications would continue to require the technical advisory services presently available under the interregional programme.

82. He fully supported the proposal outlined in paragraph 72 of the document, since his delegation endorsed any efforts to alleviate the problems posed for many developing countries by their external debt, the scale of which called for concerted action on the part of the international community.

83. Mrs. BALLESTER (Cuba) said that her delegation supported the views of others who had stressed the great importance of the proposals in paragraph 72 concerning the external debt of developing countries, a major obstacle to development. The present situation had been described as intolerable by a recent Summit Conference of the non-aligned countries. UNCTAD also had been dealing with the problem for two decades, and many developing countries needed its invaluable advice. She therefore urged the Council to recognize the importance and validity of the proposals in paragraph 72, and to adopt measures to sustain the operational activities of UNCTAD, with UNDP funding, in the areas of both external debt and the generalized system of preferences.

(Mrs. Ballester, Cuba)

84. The sector of transport and communications was of vital importance to developing countries, especially maritime transport, which handled more than 90 per cent of all trade. Those countries were consequently seeking to enlarge their merchant fleets, and continued to require advice on maritime law and administration. In addition, her delegation supported the request made by the representative of Mexico that the activities of the TRAINMAR project should be expanded.

85. Lastly, her Government accorded great importance to the activities, as a UNDP executing agency, of the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics.

86. Mr. XU SHUYUN (China) said that IPF resources for the global and interregional programme were limited, and should therefore be concentrated on areas of common and urgent concern to developing countries. Activities should promote economic and technical co-operation among developing countries and should take account of the interests of the least developed countries.

87. The programme for the third cycle had drawn on the experience of the previous cycle, and its orientation and points of emphasis had gained in clarity. The criteria for selecting programmes outlined in paragraph 34 of the document were feasible, and he welcomed the proposals in paragraph 72 to provide assistance to developing countries in managing their external debt.

88. His delegation approved the programme in general and hoped that the Council would adopt all six projects, including research and training in tropical diseases. The activities of the 1977-1981 interregional programme had been fruitful for China, as well as for the other developing countries participating, and his Government hoped to have more opportunities of that kind.

89. Mr. PELAEZ (Observer for Peru) said that his country had been one of those which in the 1970s had received UNDP assistance in servicing its external debt, which was constantly increasing as a result of his country's endeavours to achieve development and of imbalanced economic relations with other countries. He therefore welcomed the Administrator's programme of work in that field. However, he had been concerned at some of the comments made previously by other delegations in favour of discontinuing the debt management project. Such action might deprive many developing countries, which found it necessary to assume additional debts in order to execute development plans, of the assistance which they required, and he urged greater understanding of their problems.

90. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said that, in studying document DP/524, he had experienced some difficulty in analysing the contents of the programme. He hoped that in future it would be possible to give rather more detailed and specific information.

91. The UNCTAD project, assisting developing countries in connexion with the generalized system of preferences, funded by UNDP since 1972, had served as a very useful focal point for promoting the use of the system by participating countries. UNDP was now proposing that the funding should be curtailed; in the face of the unanimous view of developing and developed countries that it should be continued,

(Mr. Takasu, Japan)

it had agreed to make a further token contribution, which was, however, quite insufficient. The status of the negotiations between UNDP and UNCTAD was most unsatisfactory; the UNCTAD Special Committee on Preferences had expressed the view that the present level of UNDP funding, at least, was essential for the continuation of the project and he hoped that UNDP would make every effort to sustain it. It was, admittedly, a principle of technical assistance that the financial burden was gradually assumed by the recipient; an exception should, however, be made for the project in question.

92. His delegation was well aware of the importance of assistance in external debt management to many developing countries. However, the point at issue was the mandate of the various executing agencies and a possible duplication of activities within the United Nations system. The role of UNCTAD in that context should be strictly in accordance with the mandate conferred on it by the relevant resolutions. In addition, IBRD and IMF had already established a system to respond to the needs of developing countries in connexion with external debt and his delegation supported the Administrator's proposal to drop the relevant activity.

93. Mr. CLARK (United States of America) said that it seemed clear that any reduction in the level of support by UNDP for UNCTAD in connexion with the generalized system of preferences could lead to the termination of the programme. The current modest level of UNDP funding was a prerequisite for attracting assistance from voluntary bodies and he urged UNDP to continue that funding.

94. His delegation supported the view of the representative of Japan concerning the undesirability of discontinuing the activity relating to external debt management. On that understanding, his delegation could support the programme as contained in DP/524.

95. Mr. AMOKO (Uganda) welcomed the areas of emphasis in the programme; in particular the UNCTAD project on the generalized system of preferences should be continued.

96. He had been astonished to hear the proposal of the Administrator to drop the debt management activity; the unanimous UNCTAD decision to extend technical assistance in connexion with debt servicing had been endorsed only in March 1981. The back-peddalling of some countries appeared to reflect a general aversion in principle to the idea of involving UNCTAD in debt servicing. However, the budget involved was relatively small. In addition, the monopoly which a few international agencies held in the field should be broken; UNCTAD could provide less costly services and a cross-section of expert personnel. New approaches needed to be found to solving the problem; as had been agreed by the Trade and Development Board in September 1980, developing countries should be free to choose between international sources of expertise and advice. The proposals in paragraph 72 would encourage projects to enable countries to manage their own external debts and would thus promote self-reliance.

97. Mr. GRAFFENRIED (Switzerland) agreed that UNDP's part in promoting technical assistance in connexion with the generalized system of preferences had been very useful and was in fact a prerequisite for attracting voluntary contributions: UNDP funds, modest in themselves, thus had a multiplier effect, and should be maintained.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.