GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thirtieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 10 June 1983, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. SLIM (Tunisia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

POLICY REVIEW: MEASURES TO MOBILIZE INCREASED RESOURCES FOR UNDP ON AN INCREASINGLY PREDICTABLE, CONTINUOUS AND ASSURED BASIS (continued) DP/1983/5, 69, DP/1983/ICW/6, 7, 8 and Corr.1, 11, 12, 13):

General debate (continued)

1. Mr. ABDEL-GHAFFAR (Observer for Egypt) said that the central problems facing the Council was the mobilization of resources. The problem called for practical and speedy action, since the resource situation had profound repercussions, not only on the development process in the developing countries, but on international economic relations as a whole. While the developing countries themselves had the primary responsibility for their own development, their efforts would be unavailing without the support of constructive international action in all fields. Accordingly, if the Governing Council at the current session produced rapid solutions for UNDP's problems, that would be an excellent example of international co-operation and concerted action for the success of economic and social development. In that connection the recent announcements by a number of donor countries of increases in their contributions to UNDP would help the Programme to achieve its short-term goals.

2. His delegation was most appreciative of the initiatives taken by the Administrator to alleviate the situation resulting from the most recent pledging conference, as a result of which programme delivery had been reduced to 55 per cent of its previous level. It hoped that the major donor countries and others in a position to do so would increase their contributions in order to enable the Programme to continue its pioneer role in the field of multilateral technical assistance.

3. The recommendations of the Intersessional Committee of the Whole on the long-term mobilization of resources, in particular those contained in paragraph 34 of document DP/1983/5, were acceptable to his delegation. His delegation had given much thought to the idea of establishing a small evaluation unit at Headquarters and had come to the conclusion that that step would not produce the desired results. An alternative arrangement might be that adopted by his Government. An evaluation and follow-up unit was to be established within the Department of International Co-operation for Development in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was to be composed of follow-up and implementation staff in the Planning Ministry, the relevant programme officer in the office of the Resident Representative, the sector officer in the Ministry concerned and a representative of the executing agency. The unit would make field inspections of each project every six months in order to identify shortcomings and accomplishments and would report on them, using special standard forms. Such national evaluation and follow-up units would enable recipient countries to obtain a true picture of the situation. Any gaps in the system could be bridged through consultations either with the Resident Representative or with headquarters.
4. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the Administrator to implement cost-reducing measures as outlined in document DP/1983/6/Add.1, in particular the reduction of staff. It hoped that the Administrator would nevertheless ensure that the measures would not be at the expense of effectiveness. It supported the participation of developing countries in programme inputs, whether in the form of experts or of equipment. There were developing countries, among them Egypt, which were in fact donors in certain fields, in particular with regard to their experts. Maximum use should be made of such resources because the benefits for all countries were obvious.

5. His delegation commended UNDP's assistance to recognized national liberation movements and to the Palestinian people. It welcomed the efforts of the Administrator to initiate contacts with potential contributors in order to facilitate the pledging of special contributions in support of the projects being planned for the Palestinian people for the third programming cycle, and supported the recommendation of the Administrator (DP/1983/14, para. 8) that the Council should reiterate its appeal to Governments and intergovernmental organizations to supplement the resources available from the Special Programme resources to carry out that programme of assistance. In that connection, his delegation asked for clarification of paragraph 6 of document DP/1983/14; in particular, it would like to know who "the parties concerned" were, what was meant by execution not being permitted "in the usual manner" and what the meaning of ILO experts serving "in their individual capacities" was. He feared that the paragraph in question reflected either deteriorating economic circumstances as a result of the prolongation of Israeli military occupation or another attempt to prevent the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people. His delegation wanted clarification of the circumstances preventing the provision of assistance in the usual manner.

6. His country believed deeply in the value of UNDP and for that reason his Government had responded to the request for an increase of 14 per cent in contributions at the most recent pledging conference for reasons known to all, the benefit derived by Egypt from regional programmes for Arab States had become restricted to attendance by a number of Egyptian nationals at training courses and workshops. At the same time, Egypt's enormous capacities in technical expertise and its readiness to give meant that it had much to offer to fraternal Arab and African countries. It had persisted in its co-operation with other Arab and African countries at the expense of its country programme. An example of that was the shipping training school at Alexandria, originally a UNDP regional project but currently funded by Egypt's country programme alone. It was to be hoped that many projects of great importance to Arab and African States which were being financed from the Egyptian country programme would be considered by the Regional Bureau for Arab States and the Regional Bureau for Africa for funding as regional projects.

7. The Egyptian country programme for 1982-1986 was being adversely affected by the financial crisis of UNDP and, in order to derive the maximum benefit from available resources and in implementation of the principle of self-reliance, the Government should be encouraged to implement some of those projects itself.
Reliance on national experts should be encouraged, with foreign experts used as little as possible because of the high costs entailed.

8. In conclusion, he urged the Administrator to speed up the approval of new projects for the country programme. As matters stood, project approval at headquarters often took an extremely long time.

9. Mr. BARMA (Chad) said that his delegation regretted that, owing to late distribution of the documentation necessary for the work of the Council, his was one of the small delegations which had been unable to study it in its entirety.

10. The thirtieth session of the Council was being held at a time when the world economic and financial crisis was continuing in spite of faint signs of an upturn in the industrialized countries. The full brunt of that crisis was being borne by the economies of the developing countries, and in particular by the least developed countries whose growth rates had been reduced to almost zero. The crisis had, inevitably, affected UNDP by reducing the real value of the contributions of donor countries and diminishing the capacity of developing countries to contribute. That situation, in turn, had forced the Administrator to reduce delivery against the indicative planning figures for 1982-1986 to 55 per cent. Happily, a number of donor countries had already pledged supplementary contributions and others were expected to do likewise or to raise the level of their contributions. His delegation was grateful to them. It reiterated its position that the reduction in indicative planning figures should be reviewed as soon as possible so as not to throw the development plans of recipient countries into total disarray.

11. With regard to the mobilization of resources, his delegation supported the recommendations of the Intersessional Committee of the Whole on the short-term financing situation and on the longer-term financing of UNDP. It also approved of the establishment of a Programme Committee, which should, however, act on direct instructions from the Council. Only such solutions could restore the credibility of the organization and enable it to perform satisfactorily the task entrusted to it by the 1970 Consensus. Only thus could countries such as his own, for which UNDP represented almost the only hope, hope for relief from their problems.

12. It was common knowledge that 17 years of civil war, compounded by the effects of prolonged drought and geographical circumstances, had brought Chad to the brink of ruin. Since the advent of an uneasy peace, the national effort had been devoted as much to coping with emergencies as to the revival of the economy. In that struggle, UNDP played a fundamental role. In March 1981 it had reopened its field office and had encouraged the international community to send emergency relief. Through its efforts a meeting of donors for Chad had been held in Geneva in November 1982 at which UNDP had undertaken important commitments for the reconstruction of the country. In recent weeks, it had launched Chad's third country programme for the period 1983-1986 with an indicative planning figure of $52 million. The emphasis in that programme was on self-sufficiency in food, development planning, public administration, the improvement of living conditions, conservation and education. It was to be hoped that UNDP would have all the necessary resources to implement all the projects involved.

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13. The United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) had provided valuable additional resources to his country for the crucial struggle against drought and desertification. When, in January 1983, his Government had made an urgent request for assistance in dealing with an outbreak of rinderpest, UNSO had allocated $250,000 immediately which, together with a contribution of $30,000 from UNDP, had been decisive in the organization of a national vaccination campaign. His country had been spared a new catastrophe thanks to the prompt action of UNSO.

14. Mr. KIBANDA (Central African Republic) said that one of the primary purposes of the United Nations under the Charter was to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character. In the serious situation currently affecting the world economy, that objective took on a special meaning for the international community. In order to achieve such international co-operation, the United Nations had set up organs and agencies, the proliferation of which in recent years bore testimony to humanity's desire for solidarity. UNDP was the organ of the United Nations system which had responded most effectively to the universal mandate of the Organization. Notwithstanding its current financial difficulties, it remained an important factor in the economic and social advancement of developing countries.

15. UNDP was passing through a difficult period owing to the considerable decline in its resources, and the future remained uncertain. The Programme's activities had to continue and expand, however, if a damaging interruption in development assistance was to be avoided. It was gratifying that no delegation had questioned the raison d'être of UNDP, which had become a symbol of active co-operation between the industrialized and developing countries. Such differences of opinion as had emerged during the deliberations of the Intersessional Committee of the Whole had been limited to the measures to be adopted to make the Programme's activities more effective, by providing it with the necessary means to perform its essential activities successfully. The classic division between North and South, between rich and poor, underlay two opposite viewpoints which had been put forward. The donor countries, faced with the harmful effects of the current economic crisis, sought in the main to limit their contributions, while the developing countries, owing to their enormous difficulties and needs, were unable to promote their own development without international aid. Only an increase in available resources could enable the Programme to continue its activities. Donor and recipient countries should increase their contributions in the common interest. The Central African Republic, for example, had donated some $US 20,000, despite its particularly difficult economic situation.

16. The substantial reduction in IPFs which had been advocated would be extremely harmful to the least developed countries. Any cuts made should be selective, not across the board, and should give special consideration to the situation of those countries. With regard to placing UNDP's finances on a sounder basis, his delegation agreed with the recommendations of the Intersessional Committee. The principle of voluntary annual contributions should be reaffirmed, bearing in mind that the developing countries, which constituted the majority of donors and recipients, were frequently unable to pledge contributions for more than one year.
(Mr. Kibanda, Central African Republic)

at a time. A flexible attitude should be adopted, however, in order to facilitate the flow of resources to UNDP on a predictable, continuous and assured basis.

17. The recommendations made by the Intersessional Committee on strengthening the role of the Governing Council and on greater involvement of Member States in the planning and review of country programmes deserved careful consideration. Nevertheless, the establishment of a programme committee might well undermine the Council's authority. The Intersessional Committee should continue to consider the matter and specify the mandate that any such committee would have.

18. His Government supported the recommendation to establish a small central evaluation unit and the proposed method of financing it. Co-operation between the Administrator and the Governments of recipient and donor countries with a view to enhancing the image of UNDP was likewise important: it was essential that the peoples of recipient and donor countries should realize the extent of international co-operation for development.

19. Mr. GALLITZ (German Democratic Republic) said that the Council had a number of significant problems before it, on which no consensus had yet been reached on proposed solutions. Measures to mobilize resources for UNDP on an increasingly predictable, continuous and assured basis would undoubtedly be one of the most important topics during the session.

20. The underlying cause of the Programme's difficult financial situation was the adverse consequences of the crisis of the capitalist system. Owing to continuing inflation and exchange-rate fluctuations, UNDP had experienced substantial losses and its aid to developing countries had suffered in consequence. In the interests of greater predictability, his delegation was prepared to agree to the pledging of contributions for several years ahead on an indicative basis, but such a system would facilitate predictable planning only if all donor countries did likewise. The arguments in favour of a replenishment system of financing contradicted the voluntary nature of contributions to UNDP, and did nothing to resolve existing problems.

21. Efficiency in UNDP was of particular importance. Efforts should be made to avoid duplication, to simplify the formulation of projects and to make documents both more concise and more readily available, which would increase their value as sources of information; it was regrettable that documents for the current session had been issued late. It would also be advantageous to limit the number of sessions. His delegation doubted that the establishment of a programme committee would improve efficiency.

22. It was a requirement for the Programme's effectiveness that all available financial resources should be utilized for activities in developing countries, yet voluntary contributions of $US 3.8 million paid by the German Democratic Republic had been blocked within UNDP and thus withheld from use. UNDP's claim that contributions in national currencies could not be utilized lacked conviction since other United Nations agencies and organizations had for years made use of such
contributions in local currencies. There were clearly forces at play which were attempting, on principle, to prevent the equal co-operation of the German Democratic Republic and other socialist countries in UNDP activities. The use of all contributions was a mandate of the Programme. It should be remembered that universality, sovereignty and voluntary contribution were fundamental principles of UNDP's work and formed the basis for his country's co-operation with the Programme.

23. His delegation was strongly opposed to transforming UNDP into a commercial enterprise serving transnational corporations, which was the aim of efforts being made to bring UNDP under the influence of certain international financial institutions. The setting up of a World Bank/UNDP working group and UNDP's involvement in bilateral equipment supply and services in the interests of private financial donors undermined its democratic basis and violated the principle of universality and the Programme's intergovernmental nature.

24. His delegation recommended the adoption of all the country programmes before the Council, and welcomed the support for national liberation movements recognized by OAU. UNDP should support the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, PLO.

25. The preservation of peace, prevention of nuclear war and development of peaceful international co-operation had assumed new significance for all mankind. The reference in the Administrator's report to the link between disarmament and development was noteworthy in that regard. Confrontation, economic aggression, and discrimination and sanctions in contravention of international law were being used against all those who wished international economic relations to be advantageous. The non-aligned countries had declared that peace and peaceful coexistence, independence, disarmament and development were to be the central issues of the day. But peace had to spring from justice and equality, since the inequality and exploitation established by imperialism remained the major cause of tension, conflict and violence in the world.

26. **Mr. AKAO** (Japan) said that UNDP's resource problem was a source of particular disappointment to his delegation, which believed in the importance of technical assistance for development and had consistently supported UNDP. Japan sympathized with those countries whose programmes had been cut back owing to the financial shortfall, but that situation was the result not only of global economic difficulties and unfavourable currency fluctuations but also of over-ambitious targets. Indeed, his delegation had cautioned in 1980 that the resource target should be based on a more realistic appraisal of global economic conditions. Had developing countries faced reality more squarely before proceeding with their planning, the impact of resource constraints would have been less severe.

27. Nevertheless, his country was making every effort to increase its contribution to UNDP, as part of its aim to double its development aid in five years. Japan had substantially increased its contributions, and was currently the third largest contributor to the Programme. It also contributed to the United Nations Capital...
Development Fund and the Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, and its contribution to UNFPA for 1983 would amount to SUS 37 million. His Government attached particular importance to the development of human resources as being fundamental to the nation-building activities of developing countries.

28. The conclusions of the Intersessional Committee contained many realistic compromise elements which would have a significant impact on UNDP if all concerned strove to secure adequate resources for the Programme. The voluntary nature of UNDP and the basic principles of universality and multilateralism should be carefully safeguarded - an aspect which would be of particular importance in the proposed informal intergovernmental consultations prior to the annual pledging conference. The impact of the proposed measures on resources would be significant only if UNDP was able to move away from its excessive dependence on the Development Assistance Committee donors, whose share amounted to over 90 per cent of the total, and broaden the basis of its financial support. The maintenance of the real value of contributions should not result in a perpetuation of the current pattern of contributions. Other industrialized countries, particularly those with centrally-planned economies, and middle-income developing countries should shoulder a greater share of the resource flow to UNDP.

29. Measures should be considered to minimize the impact of resource stagnation on the least developed countries, particularly those with very small IPFs. The sharp increase in cost-sharing contributions was a welcome development. It was to be hoped that those countries in a position to do so would make every effort to become net contributors to UNDP, thus releasing resources to the neediest.

30. It was regrettable that so little progress had been made in utilizing accumulated non-convertible currencies. A way had to be found to make more extensive use of them, without jeopardizing the principle of universality. For example, UNDP experts who were nationals in the countries concerned might receive part of their salaries in those currencies.

31. The resource problem was not due solely to the financial difficulties of donor countries. At a time of competing demands, programmes needed to present their cases more convincingly than in the past. UNDP's strength as the central funding organization for technical co-operation in the United Nations system might turn into a weakness if it failed to co-ordinate its programme with other multilateral institutions. The proliferation of separate funds indicated the preferences not only of donor but also of recipient countries. Moreover the fact that there was little involvement by the Council in the implementation of programmes once they had been approved was an advantage in that it simplified procedure, but that minimal involvement might be disadvantageous if it was necessary for delegations to make a more persuasive case for increasing support to UNDP. The Programme's extensive field network and high-level inputs were great assets, but it would become increasingly difficult to justify the relatively high cost of UNDP programmes unless there was objective evaluation and monitoring. UNDP administrative and agency support costs amounted to almost one third of all project costs, which reduced the amount available for programming, and that affected the attractiveness
of the Programme to both recipients and donors. The recommendations made by the Intersessional Committee in that regard were of significant value.

32. A programme committee, if organized in parallel with the Budgetary and Finance Committee, and if it did not lead to duplication of other activities, would improve programming and the assessment of programmed activities, and thereby improve management efficiency. On a trial basis the new committee should concentrate on the review of evaluation findings and programme implementation reports. The annual programme reports submitted to the Council could be submitted to the it for consideration.

33. The proposal to establish a central evaluation unit was welcome. It would benefit recipient countries, even more than donors, to verify the relevance of programme activities through systematic self-evaluation. The recommendations of the Intersessional Committee were aimed at increasing UNDP's effectiveness and would be invaluable in generating increased support for the Programme. The report on UNIDO technical co-operation projects in manufacturing submitted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination was of great interest, and could provide guidance to the Administrator.

34. UNDP had two main instruments for co-ordinating technical co-operation: country programming and Resident Co-ordinators. In order to strengthen the Programme's co-ordinating role, it would be necessary to broaden the scope of country programming to include external inputs for operational activities and to define clearly the functions of the Resident Co-ordinators. That could be done only if recipient countries took the initiative and all the other parties concerned co-operated.

35. His delegation was convinced of the importance of technical co-operation in development and of the role of UNDP, and thus welcomed collaboration between UNDP and the World Bank in that field. The Administrator's suggestion on the doubling of official development resources for technical co-operation over the forthcoming five years was of great interest to his delegation.

36. Miss AL AWADI (Observer for Kuwait) said that her country provided material and moral support for international co-operation for development in various economic and technical fields in the belief that the nations of the world were interdependent and that solutions to the problems facing the peoples of the developing countries could be found only in international co-operation and the creation of collective capacity to tackle those problems. In addition to the support of Kuwait for regional and international institutions active in the development field and its direct assistance to many developing countries, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, established in 1961 to provide and administer economic and technical assistance to the Arab countries and developing countries in general, had appreciably expanded its activities, committing itself in the period 1961-1982 to the provision of 220 development loans on easy terms. Those loans had been extended to 56 developing countries and their total value was about 992 million Kuwaiti dinars or $US 3,740 million.

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37. In the field of technical co-operation at the national and regional levels, Kuwait had organized a regional seminar on the evaluation of technical assistance received from the United Nations development system with the aim, inter alia, of exchanging information and expertise in the evaluation of national experience. The final document of that seminar contained a review of the advantages and drawbacks of technical co-operation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies, together with recommendations for the evaluation of such co-operation with the aim of increasing its effectiveness. It also reiterated the appreciation of the Arab Governments for the important role played by UNDP and the specialized agencies in project support and implementation in the developing countries in general and the Arab countries in particular. It was to be hoped that other regions would make similar assessments of their experience of technical assistance received through the United Nations system.

38. It was also to be hoped that the United Nations development system would look into the possibility of amending its existing regulations and procedures with a view to strengthening and improving the effectiveness of its technical co-operation activities and programmes and the methods of implementing them.

39. The difficulties of the world economic situation were threatening technical co-operation and assistance programmes for the developing countries in general and the least developed countries in particular. The same was true of the assistance which the international community had a duty to provide to all peoples struggling for freedom under the banner of national liberation movements in Africa and under the banner of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Kuwait reaffirmed the need for particular attention to assistance to the Palestinian people, which was still struggling for self-determination as a result of the tyranny and terrorism to which it had been subjected, the people of Yemen, afflicted with catastrophic earthquakes, and the Lebanese people, which had been subjected to slaughter and destruction in the course of a lengthy civil war and to aggression and occupation of its territory by an enemy which was a Member of the United Nations.

40. Mr. Traore (Mali) said that the current session of the Council was taking place at a particularly difficult time for UNDP. Since 1981 UNDP's resources had been declining, with contributions falling far short of the target of a 14 per cent annual increase set in 1980. As a result, the resources allocated for programmes had had to be reduced, with adverse consequences for national, subregional and regional development efforts. The 45 per cent reduction in indicative planning figures had hit the poorest countries hardest. The reduction in his country's IPF was having an adverse impact on the implementation of the five-year national development plan for 1981-1985, which was the first phase of the Government's substantial programme of action for accelerated development for the period 1981-1990. Some projects had had to be suspended, the implementation of many others had been disrupted, and new priority projects had had to be cancelled or at least postponed.

41. As was the case with many of the least developed countries, UNDP was a major source of financing for Mali's development plan. His Government was therefore
understandably concerned over any difficulty which affected contributions to UNDP. Given the current financial difficulties of UNDP and the ever-increasing needs of the developing countries, he was gratified to learn that UNDP had begun to seek new ways to increase the effectiveness of its activities and to adapt those activities to the ever-changing development context. The use of national experts in the execution of UNDP projects should be expanded; the very purpose of assistance was to enable recipients ultimately to do without it. Having non-nationals and nationals working together on projects would provide opportunities for exchanges which would give new dimensions to international co-operation.

42. His delegation supported the initiative taken by UNDP to make its programming and management machinery available to activities financed under ad hoc arrangements, subject to the agreement of the donor and recipient Governments. Of course, donor countries should not be allowed to make use of UNDP's services unless they had made their contribution to UNDP's central funds in accordance with Council decision 80/30.

43. While understanding the considerations of principle which led some delegations to oppose tied multilateral assistance, his delegation felt that the more pressing realities of development had to be taken into account. Certain forms of tied assistance had been used successfully for many years by some specialized agencies and had not become an alternative to the traditional use of UNDP funds. A typical arrangement allowed a donor country to make supplementary contributions to UNDP while earmarking them for specific activities which public opinion in that country particularly favoured. Nations would thus gain a greater understanding of UNDP's activities and UNDP would be strengthened in the process. In any event, the financial resources made available under such arrangements should be used in accordance with the priorities of the recipient country.

44. UNDP's effectiveness could well be seriously undermined by the inadequacy of its resources. For that reason, his delegation had supported decision 82/5 establishing the Intersessional Committee of the Whole to consider options for the longer-term financing of the Programme. His delegation was grateful to Canada, Italy, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for the additional contributions they had recently pledged, and was convinced that other countries would respond positively to the appeal to help to eliminate UNDP's current deficit. In view of the adverse consequences for recipient countries of unforeseen reductions in the ceiling for programme expenditure, it was to be hoped that donors would at least give an indication of the contributions they intended to make for multi-year periods.

45. As to the Intersessional Committee's proposal to strengthen the role of the Governing Council and Governments in programme planning and review, his delegation was satisfied with the existing procedures. It had no objection, however, to the suggestion that the relevant documentation should contain somewhat more detail on programme content. It had reservations with regard to the recommendation to establish a programme committee; experience with the Budgetary and Finance Committee had shown that only large delegations could cover meetings which were held simultaneously. Moreover, such a committee might be tempted to go beyond the
technical function of reviewing projects and assume the political function of priority-setting. The 1970 Consensus, which specified that the setting of priorities within country programmes was the prerogative of recipient Governments, might thus be seriously breached.

46. His delegation believed that evaluation was best conducted in the field. The establishment of a headquarters evaluation unit was not likely to meet legitimate concerns with respect to project monitoring. His delegation therefore favoured a tripartite evaluation in the field in which UNDP, the recipient Government and, where applicable, the executing agency would participate.

47. It was regrettable that the current level of UNDP's resources was inadequate to implement the Substantial New Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries adopted in 1980, which had aroused such great hopes. UNDP should therefore do its utmost to mobilize increased public and private development assistance. The Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries had recognized that those countries would not attain the objectives of their country programmes unless the real value of official development assistance increased markedly during the current decade. The least developed countries had been left free to choose the form of dialogue with donors which suited them. Mali had opted for the holding of a donors' round table as a means of initiating a dialogue with the international community on its fundamental concerns, as expressed in the national economic and social development plan for 1981-1985. UNDP had played a crucial role in ensuring the success of the round table, which had taken place in December 1982.

48. While recognizing that the promotion of technical co-operation was the fundamental role of UNDP, his delegation considered that the Programme should continue to emphasize pre-investment activities, the cost of which most developing countries could not meet from their own resources. In his country, for example, UNDP's involvement had helped to attract funds from other sources for the construction of the Sélingué dam, which promised to have a profound impact on its development efforts.

49. Ms. Qoane (Lesotho) said that, with much sacrifice, her Government had increased its contribution to UNDP at the most recent pledging conference by 14 per cent as a gesture of appreciation for the role which the Programme had played and continued to play in the development of her country. Her delegation was grateful to UNDP for the successful round table meetings it had helped to organize in fulfilment of its role in implementing the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries adopted in Paris in 1981. It was regrettable that UNDP's financial resources were still at such a low level as to hamper the speedy implementation of that Programme. In that connection, she expressed gratitude to the Government of Switzerland for its contribution to the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries.

50. The poorest of the developing countries had been hardest hit by the global economic recession. They were still struggling to develop their very basic economic and social infrastructure and would be the very last to taste the fruits
of a general recovery of the world economy. They would for a long time to come continue to depend on external aid and to look upon UNDP as their main source of assistance. Her delegation was encouraged by the positive outcome of the recent Williamsburg summit, at which the leaders of major industrial countries had undertaken a joint commitment to promote world economic recovery. That recovery would undoubtedly have positive effects on UNDP, the recession having been generally blamed for the decline in financial contributions to the Programme.

51. Turning to the report of the Intersessional Committee of the Whole, she said that her delegation concurred with the reasons advanced in support of the proposal to establish a programme committee. The poorest of the developing countries were sorely lacking in skilled manpower, particularly for development planning, and without the assistance of foreign experts they could not draw up their own development plans and programmes in a professional and generally acceptable manner, with the result that most of their country programmes did not meet the standard expected by international development agencies. The Governing Council, given its structure, was incapable of providing professional guidance and advice in that area. While the proposed programme committee might be a solution to the problem, her delegation wondered whether the alternative of strengthening the planning capacity of developing countries through proper training of their nationals might not be explored. UNDP could become actively involved in the planning exercises undertaken by recipient countries, and donors could also be invited to preview development plans with a view to making suggestions for improvement before they were submitted to the Council.

52. Her delegation also welcomed the proposal to establish a central evaluation unit provided that it would result in the enhancement of UNDP's image. It would, however, prefer the field offices to be strengthened in such a way to facilitate the conduct of evaluation exercises in recipient countries.

53. There was no need for haste in adopting the recommendations of the Intersessional Committee of the Whole. Members and non-members of the Council should be given ample opportunity to study them more thoroughly.

54. In conclusion, she expressed her delegation's appreciation to those donor countries which had announced their intention to increase their official development assistance or contributions to UNDP.

55. Mrs. Hadja Keïta Bah (Guinea) expressed her Government's thanks to UNDP for its efforts in planning for the donors' round table to be held in Conakry in December 1983. Her country was keenly aware of the importance of United Nations development assistance to the developing countries. Despite the persistence of the world crisis, which had spared no country or international organization, UNDP had consistently assisted the development efforts of the new States. The resources allocated to her country had increased significantly since 1974.

56. Despite her Government's careful planning and projections of economic growth and the increase in UNDP assistance to her country in absolute terms, her
Government was unhappy about the lowering of the expenditure limits under IPFs from 80 to 55 per cent. Applying that reduction to all countries without distinction as to level of development would penalize the least developed among them. In the view of her delegation, the least developed countries should be completely or at least partly exempted from the reduction.

57. In spite of the crisis it was facing, UNDP should strengthen the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries so as to ensure the implementation of their country programmes for the third cycle. The other funds administered by UNDP should also be strengthened. The automatic carry-over of unexpended balances of IPFs at the end of a year should also be permitted in order to guarantee the continuity of projects. Such measures should make it possible to shield the least developed countries from the harsh terms of tied aid.

58. Her Government would never countenance the weakening of UNDP. It therefore urged developed and developing countries alike to help to replenish UNDP's resources and to enable the Programme to continue with renewed dynamism to play the role of central funding and co-ordinating agency for United Nations assistance to the developing countries. To that end, UNDP's field offices in recipient countries should be given financial and staffing resources commensurate with the job to be done.

59. Consideration should also be given to such measures as making greater use of high-level consultants for short-term missions and of United Nations volunteers and associate experts, streamlining of headquarters procedures for adopting project documents and of project procurement procedures, and periodic reporting to recipient Governments on the financial status of projects. The proposals to establish a central evaluation unit and a programme committee should be considered further so that all their ramifications could be explored and duplication avoided.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.