GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thirtieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30TH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 20 June 1983, at 10:30 a.m.

President: Mr. SLIM (Tunisia)
later: Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador)

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

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES (continued)

(b) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (continued)

(i) REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON 1982 ACTIVITIES (DP/1983/19 and Add.1-3)

(ii) FUTURE PROGRAMME OF UNFPA (DP/1983/20, 21 and Add.1, 22)

1. Mr. Ruso (Finland) said that his Government had noted with concern that in 1982 there had been no increase, in real terms, in UNFPA's resources. The reasons for that stagnation deserved careful analysis: while it was partly a reflection of global economic problems, to a certain extent it might also be attributable to the credibility problem which the United Nations system was experiencing. His Government did everything in its power to strengthen the United Nations system and had consistently increased its voluntary contributions. In 1982 its contribution to UNFPA had risen by more than 50 per cent, and its contributions to the Fund would continue to increase as part of Finland's overall appropriations to the multilateral development co-operation agencies.

2. It was satisfying that UNFPA had been successful in redirecting the programme, as instructed by the Governing Council in 1981, and it was to be hoped that the target of 25 per cent of total programmable resources for intercountry activities would be reached in the following year. It was likewise gratifying that in 1982 UNFPA had been able, for the first time, to direct two thirds of country programme resources to the priority countries. His country took a special interest in UNFPA's programme developments in the priority countries, and would find it useful if future annual reports of the Executive Director dealt with that aspect more thoroughly. His Government was pleased with the improved management of the Fund; it was very stable financially and operated well within available resources.

3. His delegation hoped that the Fund would do its utmost to eliminate as many bottlenecks as possible in project implementation. The increased emphasis on built-in evaluation of programme activities and on closer monitoring and follow-up functions was commendable. Evaluation of the Fund's operational activities was crucial and should be strengthened with more resources and personnel. At a time when resources were limited it was more important than ever to improve and monitor the quality of programmes.

4. Mr. Killinger (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his country, which had contributed $13.4 million to the Fund in 1982, ranked fourth on the list of donor countries. The reports under consideration showed that the Fund had been managed in a financially sound manner in 1982. It was gratifying to note that UNFPA's allocations in 1982 to priority countries had surpassed the targets set for them. His delegation supported the trend towards increased allocations to family planning projects and would welcome assurances that the proportion of that programme component would be further increased in 1984.
5. The record with regard to intercountry activities was less good. His delegation was aware that it was difficult to reduce the proportion of new programmable resources to the target level in so short a period, but felt that additional precautions should be taken in order to bring spending into line with the estimates in 1983 and 1984. His delegation believed that, among intercountry activities, regional activities should have a clear priority over interregional and global activities. It was pointed out in document DP/1983/20 that for reasons of cost-effectiveness, it might be advisable to replace experts at the country level by regional advisers who were backstopping activities in several countries; that would add to the importance of regional activities. His delegation supported the use of technical co-operation among developing countries, possibly through the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres. Nevertheless, TCDC could also be handled by national institutions at lower cost. The International Institute of Population Studies in Bombay, which was a national institution supported, primarily through fellowships, by the Fund, could serve as a model.

6. With regard to family planning and contraceptive research and development, the joint report of WHO and UNFPA (DP/1983/21 and Add.1) provided a good basis for further discussions with interested parties from participating countries. His delegation agreed that the Fund should allocate $2 million to WHO/HRP in 1984, and it was gratified to learn that the Secretariat intended to increase country-level activities in family planning research, particularly in the sub-areas of programme and service research. Research in those sub-areas should be closely connected with operational activities in the field. In the months to come more thought should be given to where the borderline between the activities financed by the Fund and those financed by WHO/HRP should lie. If UNFPA strengthened its activities in those areas, HRP could save funds - at the expense of UNFPA country programmes, not the intercountry activities.

7. In paragraph 29 of document DP/1983/20, two questions were asked with regard to new submissions of country programmes and projects to the thirtieth session of the Council. His delegation found the answers given in paragraphs 30 and 31 of that document acceptable, provided the allocation plan for the submissions was realistic, and would appreciate assurances to that effect. The impact of previously approved programmes on the allocation schedule should be kept in mind by UNFPA when it came to submit programmes for approval by the Council.

8. The realistic approach of the Secretariat to the overall resource situation was commendable. His delegation shared the view that conservative programming was necessary in order to keep the risk of reprogramming to a minimum.

9. Mr. DAHL-HANSEN (Denmark) said that the joint WHO/IPPF report on the future role of the United Nations system in family planning research (DP/1983/21 and Add.1) provided a clear overview of a complex area of research and should enable the Council to decide at the current session on the priority areas for and levels of funding of UNFPA in that vitally important field. The report of the Executive Director for 1982 (DP/1983/19) clearly indicated that, in spite of financial
constraints and uncertainties about future resources, considerable progress had been made in most areas. His delegation noted in particular the increase in the proportion of allocations made in 1982 in the field of family planning; in real terms, however, that level was the same as the level achieved in 1980 and was considerably below the average percentage in the 1970s. Information about the percentage of resources allocated to family planning so far in 1983 would be useful. Unless that figure was well above the level of previous years. It was doubtful whether the estimated level of 50 per cent in 1984 could be reached, as suggested in the Work Plan for 1984-1987 (DP/1983/20). The Fund should adhere strictly to its policy of supporting only family planning activities in which the population participated voluntarily. That principle embodied a human right that was of great importance to his Government.

10. It was gratifying to note the progress being made in concentrating the Fund's support on the priority countries. His delegation was confident that the Executive Director would be able to maintain the target of allocating at least two thirds of the resources available for country programmes to priority countries. Support for intercountry activities was also of considerable concern to the Council, but the established target of no more than 25 per cent of total allocations was far from being reached. Although further reductions had been made after careful examination of all intercountry activities for 1983, they were not sufficient to bring about any fall in the percentage level. It might be necessary to make some adjustment in the policy in order to establish a more attainable goal.

11. Mr. BENEDICK (United States of America) said that it was a cause for great concern that, barring unforeseen events, most countries would experience at least a doubling of their current population within two generations. The nearly universal recognition by the leaders of the countries affected by that phenomenon that something had to be done to limit the continuing rapid rise in population was encouraging, however. In those circumstances, the role of UNFPA was crucial. He commended the Fund for the speed and sensitivity with which it responded to the wishes of the Council and the needs of the countries which it served, on its realistic approach to future planning and on its increasing commitment to family planning and population communication programmes. His delegation was confident that those trends would continue and particularly commended the Fund's initiative in developing the new policy guidelines for its support to family planning programmes.

12. In order to meet more effectively recognized priority needs, the United Nations executing agencies - which spent most of the funds approved by the Council - must design their programmes and projects in greater conformity with the Council's mandate that priority was to be given to family planning and related activities. His Government intended to pursue that matter in the governing bodies of other United Nations agencies and urged the Fund and member States to do the same. UNFPA should allot greater resources to direct country programmes; since that would imply assigning greater responsibility to field representatives, his Government strongly endorsed UNFPA's proposal for the rotation of staff between headquarters and the field.
13. Voluntary family planning and population programmes were most effective when they involved the active participation of the people through, for example, creative projects at the community level and commercial retail sale of contraceptives. The energy and creativity of non-governmental organizations should be more effectively harnessed by UNFPA, and he urged that the recent decline in UNFPA funding through such organizations should be reversed.

14. His delegation continued to support the target level of 25 per cent for intercountry programmes. The criterion of cost-effectiveness should be paramount in UNFPA programme decisions, and his delegation recognized the value of certain types of intercountry programmes in that context, especially in the areas of biomedical and demographic research.

15. The need for safer, better and more acceptable methods of fertility regulation was becoming increasingly urgent. The Council should therefore direct the Fund to assign highest priority in its family planning research to biomedical research, with a related, but subordinate, priority for programme research. UNFPA should adopt a holistic approach to biomedical research funding in recognition of the multiplicity of effective international programmes and networks active in such research. His Government supported many international and national research bodies in their efforts to find better contraceptives, and it had bilateral agreements for co-operative research in human reproduction with India, China and Italy and was discussing similar arrangements with several other countries. That field should be given greater priority by UNFPA and the international community.

16. His Government would continue to be responsive to requests from developing countries for assistance to their population programmes through bilateral programmes, private organizations and the Fund. It placed particular emphasis on designing policies and programmes which were sensitive to local, cultural and religious traditions. The United States supported only voluntary family planning activities and strongly opposed any coercion in population programmes. Couples should be free to choose from among a variety of ways to plan their family size, including medically approved methods and natural family planning methods. Population policies and programmes should be fully consistent with the values of human dignity and family stability.

17. Mr. AKAO (Japan) said that his delegation attached great importance to population issues, and was accordingly concerned at the stagnation in UNFPA resources in recent years. As evidence of that concern, his Government had increased its contribution to UNFPA from $33.5 million in 1982 to $36.85 million in 1983, a figure which included an earmarked contribution to the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Japan was also involved in bilateral technical co-operation in the field of family planning, providing equipment and the services of experts to a number of Asian countries and organizing seminars on family planning for foreign trainees. The Japanese Organization for International Co-operation in Family Planning, Inc., a private organization, had also organized various activities at the community and family levels in developing countries.
18. His delegation welcomed the conservative income projections contained in the Work Plan for 1984-1987, (DP/1983/20, chap. VIII), but felt that further efforts should be made to mobilize contributions from the private sector. Such efforts would have the added advantage of increasing the general public's awareness of population issues. With regard to the geographical allocation of resources, his delegation felt that emphasis should continue to be placed on the Asian and Pacific region, which had nearly 60 per cent of the world's population, and the African region. He welcomed the increase in the proportion of total programme resources allocated for family planning and stressed the need for an increase in allocations for population education and communication. All activities in the area of population control should be integrated, while the promotion of family planning programmes should involve the public at the community level.

19. It was gratifying to note that the 1984-1985 administrative budget contained no request for an increase in the number of posts and called for the efficient use of human and financial resources and efforts to contain costs. Supplementary budgetary requests should also be kept to a minimum. UNFPA should intensify its effort to co-ordinate its activities with other United Nations agencies such as WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO, in the interests of efficiency and promoting new activities and research in the areas of health and contraception.

20. As a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 36/201, which had established the United Nations Population Award, his delegation wished to congratulate Prime Minister Indira Ghandi of India and Mr. Qian Xinzhou, Minister of the State Family Planning Commission of China, the first recipients of the award. He expressed the hope that both the award and the 1984 International Conference on Population would help to solve international population problems and pledged his delegation's co-operation in efforts to raise funds for the Conference.

21. Mr. ZIELINSKI (Poland) said that the Work Plan for 1983-1984 should be supported. Since it seemed likely that the financial difficulties experienced by UNFPA in 1982 would continue during 1983, efforts should be focused on certain spheres, particularly, family planning. In addition, efforts should be made to cut costs in the preparations for the 1984 International Conference on Population. In that connection, special attention should be paid to the substantive content of Conference documents.

22. His Government had begun to explore the possibility of co-operation with UNFPA in 1979. Since that time, the Central Statistical Office had offered to organize training courses of four to six weeks' duration for two holders of UNFPA scholarships. In addition, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare was prepared to organize seminars on family health and family planning for health personnel and a training course in the field of maternal and child health for senior health administrators and health personnel. The Central School for Planning and Statistics at Warsaw proposed to offer a course in economic planning for post-graduate students from developing countries. His Government was prepared to second specialists for UNFPA technical missions, while Polish scientists might undertake research on the demographic situation in Poland within the framework of
a country programme. A representative of UNFPA was scheduled to visit Poland later in 1983, at which time the details of such co-operation between his country and the Fund would be discussed.

23. Mr. CHEN Xin@qon@ (China) said that increased contributions to UNFPA from a number of States were indicative of the international community's concern about population problems and their urgency. In his report for 1982 (DP/1983/19 and Add.1-3), the Executive Director had stressed the need for developing countries to increase the use of family planning, a policy which his country endorsed. Family planning was accorded high priority and was an element of basic national policy in China, in view of the fact that the country contained approximately one fourth of the world's population.

24. China's policy was to reduce population growth and maintain a balance among population, national resources and productive capacity. As a result of government-sponsored family planning initiatives, the growth rate of the country's population had fallen from 26 per thousand in the early 1970s to 14.5 per thousand in 1981. Nevertheless, much remained to be done to overcome the many problems remaining, some of which were the result of old-fashioned attitudes such as the preference for sons and the concept of numerous children as a form of social security for parents in their old age. Although the task appeared onerous, China was confident that its family planning efforts would be successful, since they had the full support of the Government and people.

25. The Executive Director had called for a continuation of studies on population issues and contraceptive research, a position with which his delegation agreed. Experience showed that an effective family planning required a change in beliefs about reproduction and improved contraceptive methods. In China, family planning efforts were aimed at modifying old customs and bringing about better understanding of the importance of birth control for modernization, a better standard of living, child health and women's liberation. During the Spring Festival in January 1983, China had launched a month-long large-scale programme of activities to promote family planning which had been quite effective. The Government permitted couples to select their own methods of contraception, which were available free of charge. Voluntary sterilization was also free of charge for young couples, and incentives such as paid vacations were offered. In rural areas special measures were aimed at providing financial and emotional support for couples wishing to undergo sterilization including free treatment and the opportunity to have the sterilization reversed if they so desired.

26. In the four years since China had entered into co-operation with UNFPA, the results had been extremely satisfactory. Some 22 population projects were being carried out in the country; during 1980 and 1981 the execution rate for projects had been 90 per cent, and in 1983, 100 per cent. Particularly noteworthy was the assistance which the Fund had provided for the conduct of the 1982 national census. The census data were being processed and would be available by late 1984. Once compiled, the census data would provide a clearer picture of the economic
situation of the Chinese people and enable the country to pursue its family planning policy more effectively.

27. Mr. Albornoz (Ecuador) took the Chair.

28. Mr. TORAASEN (Observer for Norway) said that his Government gave high priority to population activities in its co-operation efforts with developing countries and considered UNFPA to be the central co-ordinating body for such activities. His delegation was therefore concerned that the target of 10 per cent annual growth in contributions had not been met in 1982. He was also disappointed that the number of countries making contributions to UNFPA had dropped slightly during 1982, a trend which, he hoped, be reversed in the near future. It was gratifying, however, that the proportion of resources allocated for family planning had reached 40 per cent and that the relative proportion of intercountry programmes was approaching the target of 25 per cent. The Executive Director was to be commended for having implemented the decisions taken by the Governing Council at its previous session so expeditiously.

29. However, his delegation wished to see increased emphasis on the African region in UNFPA activities; it welcomed the fact that in 1982 more than two thirds of UNFPA resources had been channelled to priority countries. Norway supported the integration of women in the development process and therefore supported family planning projects. Since child-spacing as a component of maternal and child health was increasingly important in Africa, his delegation looked forward to the results of the research project on demographic change and the role of women in population and development being conducted by ILO with UNFPA funds.

30. Because constraints on national budgets had resulted in a sharp decrease in government spending, donor countries, including his own, were increasingly concerned about the effectiveness of the development assistance which they were providing. In that connection, his delegation believed that project evaluation was of particular importance and therefore encouraged the Executive Director to intensify the monitoring and evaluation of UNFPA projects. The Fund's efforts in that direction, particularly the evaluation conducted in 1982 of six fund projects, were commendable. However, six evaluations were too few in a one-year period, in view of the total number of projects being conducted by UNFPA. In addition, tripartite reviews did not constitute an adequate means of assessing project results.

31. Since the question of population was a multisectoral one, UNFPA often dealt with problems involving other specialized agencies in the United Nations system, a situation which had potential for conflict but also for co-operation. He encouraged the Fund to pay greater attention to the problem of inter-agency conflict as a matter of priority: co-operation among the agencies would ensure more effective use of resources.

32. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the 1984 International Conference on Population would provide new impetus for UNFPA's work.
33. Mr. BLAIN (Observer for the Gambia) reaffirmed his delegation's unqualified support for the aims and objectives of UNFPA and commended the Executive Director's efforts to mobilize the resources needed to respond to the needs of developing countries. It was regrettable that, despite such efforts, voluntary contributions to the development programmes, including UNFPA, were falling short of the targets set, and that, as a result, the United Nations development system had been slowed down to half speed. The Fund deserved commendation for its tenacity in the face of increasing uncertainty over the availability of resources for multilateral co-operation and for its continued efficiency in promoting and implementing population programmes and other multisectoral population-related projects at the country level.

34. His delegation noted with satisfaction the intensified efforts being made by the Fund to secure additional resources for multi-bilateral population projects and trusted that the compendium of proposed projects would attract support from the international community at large. He paid a tribute to Denmark, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the OPEC Fund for leading the way in supporting multi-bilateral population projects, and invited the Government of the United States, which had been generous in funding UNFPA activities over the years, to lend its support to such projects.

35. His delegation fully supported the activities undertaken by UNFPA to promote awareness of population issues among the international community. The Fund's population information services not only increased the capacity of developing countries to deal with population problems but also helped to generate support from donor countries for population projects. The establishment of a linkage between POPIN, INRES and the multisectoral information network which was being established by the Group of 77 would considerably facilitate developing countries' access to and use of information on population. His delegation attached equal importance to data evaluation and analysis in so far as they related to national census exercises.

36. The Fund had made commendable strides in programme delivery and implementation in Africa and in expanding the scope of its activities there. However, there was still room for improvement and, in view of the fact that the majority of the least developed countries and the highest number of priority countries were situated in Africa, his delegation would welcome an acceleration of UNFPA's support of multisectoral population programmes and projects in that region. In view of the importance of speedy delivery of supplies and equipment to the implementation of government-executed projects, UNFPA should continue to develop its procurement capacity and should favour the local procurement of equipment and supplies whenever they were readily available in recipient countries.

37. His delegation considered that the purpose of Governing Council decision 79/28 had not been to reduce intercountry activities providing direct and demonstrated support to the implementation of country programmes but rather to augment the resources available to recipient countries. Accordingly, regional activities, which, by their very nature, were closely related to and directly supportive of country programmes, should be exempt from the 25 per cent limitation on intercountry activities.
38. His delegation was appreciative of the quality of the support UNFPA continued to provide to the two regional demographic training centres in Africa. While agreeing that such centres should provide training programmes that were cost-effective and responsive to the needs of the countries they served, his delegation had strong reservations with regard to the suggestion in paragraph 15 (d) of document DP/FPA/PROJECTS/REC/8 regarding the financial independence of the centres. If regional centres, particularly the two in Africa, were to maintain their current programmes, they would certainly need the full and continued support of UNFPA for at least another 12 years.

39. His delegation had on previous occasions urged UNFPA to devote more attention to maternal and child health programmes, the full participation of women in all aspects of development, the question of population redistribution and migration in relation to rural development, assisting developing countries in population policy formulation, basic data collection and mass education in rural areas, and the important question of human rights. It was to be hoped that those areas would receive adequate attention at the 1984 International Conference on Population. Africa was looking forward to the Conference which, it hoped, would yield constructive and action-oriented decisions.

40. His delegation was pleased to note that UNFPA was one of the few organs that had already begun to incorporate TCDC dimensions into its programmes. Ideally, United Nations agencies should undertake joint or tripartite ventures in support of TCDC programmes and projects in the field. In that connection, the ability of UNFPA actively to continue to support global, regional and interregional projects was of crucial importance.

41. His delegation hoped that, within the framework of its programmes and activities for the biennium 1984-1985, UNFPA, like UNDP, would provide meaningful support for the execution of the projects in the population, rural development and education sectors included in his country’s second five-year plan.

42. Mr. Slim (Tunisia) resumed the Chair.

43. Mr. HEPPING (Sweden) said that, as the Executive Director had observed in his report, UNFPA would probably continue to face resource constraints for some years, but the demand and need for assistance to population activities were unlikely to diminish. Population was a complex subject, however and population growth and its relationship to resource availability was but one aspect of it. Other social phenomena, such as the uncontrolled growth of urban areas, changing age structures in virtually all countries and the effects of migration, were also of concern to UNFPA. However, UNFPA should give increasing emphasis to family planning. He noted with satisfaction that UNFPA had allocated more funds to family planning programmes and trusted that the trend would continue, particularly with regard to Africa. It was also to be hoped that the 25 per cent ceiling on the allocation of programme resources to intercountry activities would soon be reached.
Another favourable development was UNFPA's success in allocating two thirds of available country programme resources to priority countries. The task might have been made easier, of course, by the recent increase in the number of priority countries. His delegation was not in favour of any change in the criteria for identifying priority countries. He suggested that the Executive Director should submit a written report on the experience gained in using the existing criteria to the Council at its thirty-second session.

45. On the subject of evaluation, he said that UNFPA had carried out a number of evaluations in recent years but that it was not clear whether the results had been taken into account in the planning and programming process. He would welcome the Executive Director's comments on that matter and proposed that a special report should be submitted to the Governing Council at the following session. While the increasing emphasis on built-in evaluation of programme activities was an important step forward, increased reporting on the findings of such exercises would help the Council in guiding the Secretariat towards achieving the aim of more stringent formulation of programme and project objectives.

46. His Government was carrying out a review of the experience gained in population activities by bilateral and multilateral programmes. The review would cover the experience of Swedish bilateral co-operation and the effectiveness of channelling Swedish funds through UNFPA and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The review would assist the Government in formulating its future policies.

47. Many countries had experience in the use of incentives and disincentives in family planning programmes, and UNFPA should assist in collecting the information available on the subject for inclusion in a problem-oriented report to be submitted to the Governing Council at the following session. It would be particularly interesting to learn more about the effects of such devices on the quality of services offered and on the individual's free and informed choice.

48. His delegation would welcome more information about the practical steps UNFPA had taken to promote the objective of self-reliance in recipient countries. The need for technical assistance and methods of procurement had to be analysed thoroughly. It was generally better to strengthen existing local procurement channels than to create new ones that could not be taken over by the recipient country.

49. As to multi-bilateral financing, he said that the sheer number of projects listed by UNFPA in a very lengthy document and the fact that only a small fraction of those projects could realistically be expected to attract financing gave rise to doubts as to whether the Fund should put so much work into defining and planning multi-bi projects. His delegation would prefer such effort to be geared towards programmes financed under the regular budget.
50. In conclusion, he commended the Executive Director for his efforts to make the best possible use of scarce resources. Since no significant increase in resources was likely for a few years to come, continuous consolidation of UNFPA's organizational and programming procedures would be of the utmost importance.

51. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that, since the adoption by the General Assembly of its historic 1966 resolution emphasizing its concern for population issues, United Nations technical co-operation in that field had been continuous, comprehensive, flexible and effective. The hallmark of UNFPA was its successful and smooth functioning, and its activities carried out with full respect for the legislation and specific conditions of the individual country, with no attempt to impose its own criteria, and without futile polarization of or distinctions between donor and recipient countries. UNFPA had thus become a model programme for the entire United Nations system.

52. His delegation noted with satisfaction that UNFPA endeavoured to involve all the dynamic sectors in each country in population activities, including the Government, bodies concerned with planning, health, food production and statistics, educational institutions, religious bodies and private organizations. In its philosophy and operations, the Fund had not only remained faithful to the principles and objectives of the Bucharest Conference but it had progressed beyond them. In that connection, his delegation noted with satisfaction the progress made with respect to multi-bilateral funding arrangements.

53. The activities of the Fund had made it possible to grasp the magnitude of the problems to be tackled and had produced tangible results in both the public and private sectors. The Fund's approach, in accordance with which population was a technical matter for which all sectors of society had a responsibility, had prevented population from being used as a political issue. The integration of women in the development process was another valuable development resulting from the 1974 World Population Plan of Action.

54. UNFPA programmes in Ecuador were fully co-ordinated with all other UNDP-supported projects and with other multilateral and bilateral assistance by the National Development Council, the government agency responsible for the planning of economic development and social justice. The Constitution imposed on the State the duty to promote responsible parenthood and education geared to the development of the family, and to guarantee the right of parents to have as many children as they could support and educate. The link between population and development was well understood by his Government, which was striving to combat ignorance, malnutrition and disease and to create employment, in the hope of achieving a more appropriate level of population growth as living conditions improved, especially among the most disadvantaged groups and in rural areas. UNFPA programmes in Ecuador therefore dealt with family welfare and integrated services in rural areas. The government contribution towards such projects was 10 times as large as the international input, which functioned primarily as seed money. Thorough evaluations had been made of all activities implemented so far, and all ongoing UNFPA projects had been planned on the basis of such evaluations.
55. The most important of the bodies and organizations which were involved in Ecuador in UNFPA-assisted projects was the National Development Council, which had set up a Population Unit under its Social Planning Division. Under a UNFPA-assisted project, the necessary research and data collection had begun in connection with the population policy to be embodied in the 1985-1989 Development Plan. Preparations were under way for the national population survey and for training and evaluation activities. International funding for the project had already been reduced in the course of the long process of preparing the project document, and he emphasized the necessity of providing all the planned inputs so that the project could be implemented in its entirety.

56. His Government was grateful to UNFPA, UNDP, the World Food Programme and UNICEF for the substantial emergency assistance they had provided following the recent floods in his country. While UNDP's assistance had helped to finance the immediate response to the disaster, other technical and economic co-operation would be needed to enable the affected areas, which produced export commodities, to reach their previous level of production so that the Government could once again turn its attention to its pressing economic and social problems.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.