GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thirtieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 21 June 1983, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. SLIM (Tunisia)

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This record is subject to correction.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES (continued)

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

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

(ii) FUTURE PROGRAMME OF UNFPA (continued) (DP/1983/20, 21, 22)

(iii) LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES (DP/FPA/PROJECTS/REC/2-8; DP/1983/L.9)

1. Mrs. VAZQUEZ-DIAZ (Mexico) said that combined efforts by all were needed in order to obtain concrete action in population activities. Such a move would show that the objectives of the Bucharest Conference were being implemented. It was to that end that the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) had joined with ECLA in studying and implementing various systems. Mexico supported all regional activities in that field and carried out similar activities in its national development plans.

2. In attempting to overcome the problems raised by geographical differences within the country, Mexico strove for decentralization and promoted the involvement of women in national development, so as to enhance the responsibility of the individual and of married couples. That was the result of a decision affirming the responsibility of the State in that respect, the implementation of which had already borne fruit.

3. Mexico thanked the international community for allowing it the honour of serving as host to the forthcoming International Conference on Population, preparations for which were well under way.

4. Mr. KILLINGER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, while his delegation welcomed in principle the concept of the programme of assistance to the Government of Benin (DP/FPA/PROJECTS/REC/3), it believed that that project was geared too much to sex education.

5. With regard to the recommendation by the Executive Director for assistance to the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres (DP/FPA/PROJECTS/REC/8), his delegation wondered how it was envisaged that, for example, the International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS) at Bombay would in the long run obtain financial independence and be a model for other centres. In addition, he would like to receive more information about the needs for trained manpower and about which regions were being referred to in that document. In other words, a more comprehensive report was required, and the Secretariat should attempt to provide one for the next session of the Governing Council. It was only with such information at hand that the Council would be able to take the required decisions regarding allocation of resources.
6. **Mr. SANGARE** (Mali) said that his delegation supported all the programmes submitted for approval, in particular the population projects for development in Africa. In that connection, Mali attached particular importance to training because, while it was not an over-populated country, it had a high growth rate that was a serious cause for concern.

7. **Mrs. LOECKX-DROZDIAK** (Belgium) said that population programmes were becoming increasingly important in development and their implementation was therefore important. Her delegation supported the projects for Africa and believed that UNFPA could play an active role in that connection, especially in research and studies relating to fertility and mortality.

8. Her delegation also attached importance to the demographic training and research centres, because cost/benefit analysis showed that proper statistics enabled countries to train their national experts. In addition, co-operation between WHO and UNFPA should be strengthened with a view to aiding the family.

9. The preparations for the Mexico City Conference were well under way, and her delegation would follow developments in that regard with a view to considering an expansion of Belgium's co-operation with UNFPA.

10. **Mr. TAKASU** (Japan) said that his delegation took special note of document DP/1983/20, on the update of the review and reassessment and the work plan for 1984-1987 and request for approval authority, and would welcome more detailed information on the ceilings for project allocations for 1982 and 1983 shown in tables D and E. While his delegation could endorse the plan for the distribution of resources and could support the figures on estimated income, it believed that careful note should be taken of the steep increase in the income estimate for 1983. Despite that expected increase, every effort should be made to mobilize more income from all possible sources; his delegation wondered whether UNFPA was authorized to receive contributions from private sources.

11. It had been stated that intercountry programmes should account for no more than 25 per cent of programmable resources and that that target should be achieved by 1984. In addition, the Executive Director had stated that many large-scale programmes would be completed in 1983. However, it should be borne in mind that, because of cost overruns, it might be difficult to achieve the targets being set at the current session. In addition, it was not always easy to terminate ongoing activities, and any change in estimated income would mean a change in the funding of programmes. His delegation therefore agreed with the Executive Director that, in order to keep down expenditures, it was essential that the regional and interregional training centres should aim for financial independence. In that connection, he was pleased to note that IIPS at Bombay was now self-reliant, and his delegation would be pleased to receive more information regarding the Moscow State University in the USSR. Finally, his delegation could support the estimated UNFPA contribution of $3.5 million for 1984-1987 but believed that a further study of assistance to the regional and interregional demographic and training and research centres should be submitted to the Governing Council at the next session.

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12. Miss QOANE (Lesotho) observed that in the early 1960s, at the dawn of independence, the African nations had not appreciated the importance of population studies. However, they had quickly realized that such studies were necessary for economic development, and they were now agreed on the need for a sustained commitment to population studies in Africa. Her delegation therefore joined in the appeal to donors for increased contributions to UNFPA and thanked all that had contributed to multilateral and bilateral assistance. It agreed with the recommendation by the Executive Director to extend for another four years the assistance to the regional and interregional demographic and training research centres. It also hoped that the omnibus draft decision would be adopted by consensus.

13. Mr. ELHADJI YAHAYA (Niger) said his delegation was pleased to note that, among the six new projects, five involved priority programmes. In the case of the project for the Niger (DP/FPA/PROJECTS/REC/2), three quarters of the funds involved would be for data collection, information and education, without which there could be no development in his country. His delegation therefore thanked UNFPA for its assistance in conducting the 1977 census and in providing population education in schools.

14. The Niger supported the recommendations concerning the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres and the recommendation by the Executive Director contained in document DP/1983/L.9.

15. Mrs. BALLESTER (Observer for Cuba) said that her delegation attached great importance to maternal and child health, family planning and demographic research. In that connection, Cuba had for years carried out in-depth studies and had achieved good results. UNFPA assistance was valuable for developing countries, and her delegation therefore supported the request for assistance to the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres, and in particular for continued co-operation with CELADE.

16. Finally, her delegation wished to reiterate its support for the forthcoming Mexico City Conference. As part of the preparatory activities, experts from all over Latin America would be meeting in Havana in November 1983.

17. Mr. DJABOUTOUBOUTOU (Observer for Benin) expressed satisfaction with the way the Executive Director had been implementing decisions from previous sessions and the competence with which UNFPA projects were administered. He stressed the role of UNFPA in the development of third world countries, which suffered from a high birth rate, high mortality and dwindling agricultural production that together threatened the lives of millions of people. Evaluation exercises had shown the value of UNFPA programmes in the past, and he called upon the Fund to expand its activities in the future.

18. Thanks to UNFPA assistance, Benin now had a reliable foundation for its development planning. It hoped that its collaboration with UNFPA would be strengthened in the years to come and that the Council would approve the project proposals for his country.
19. The regional and interregional demographic research and training centres should be maintained and strengthened. With the help of UNFPA, the African centre was playing an important role in the training of African personnel. He hoped that that centre would continue to receive UNFPA assistance.

20. In conclusion, he pledged his Government's support for all efforts by the Executive Director to promote the status of women and young people.

21. Mr. De la Torre (Argentina) noted the importance of UNFPA operations in determining the impact of population growth in the developing countries. An awareness of that impact and of the interdependence between development policies and population growth was basic to planning and policy formulation. In that connection, he reaffirmed the validity of Council decision 82/20, which stipulated that all countries were entitled to receive assistance from UNFPA.

22. His delegation supported UNFPA assistance for the regional demographic training and research centres. CELADE helped individual countries in the Latin American region to clarify the interrelationship between their policies and population growth. He agreed with the representative of Venezuela that document DP/1983/22 did not correctly reflect the discussions held on that subject; it ignored a statement made by the Venezuelan delegation on behalf of Venezuela, Argentina and Ecuador and distorted the interpretation of decision 82/20 in a manner that was objectionable to some members of the Governing Council.

23. Mr. Albornoz (Ecuador) commended CELADE for its assistance in training personnel from the countries of the Latin American region in population studies, demographic factors and the basics of development. The Centre had made great strides in modern demographic analysis. His own country owed a great deal to the Centre for its assistance, its publications and its promotion of exchanges of information. He noted in particular that in all cases CELADE acted in accordance with national legislation.

24. His delegation considered that CELADE deserved priority attention as a regional project. The Administrator of UNDP should be recommended to allocate the necessary resources to the Centre, which was currently suffering from a grave shortage of funds.

25. Mr. Killinger (Federal Republic of Germany) associated his delegation with the questions posed by the representative of Japan concerning the regional demographic training and research centres, and in particular concerning UNFPA's association with Moscow State University.

26. Mr. Benedick (United States of America) associated his delegation with the questions raised by the representatives of Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany.

27. It was clear that members of the Council generally supported UNFPA's emphasis on family planning and related activities. In most cases, UNFPA implemented its
projects through specialized agencies of the United Nations system. His delegation strongly believed that, in its decision on UNFPA at the current session, the Council should recognize the critical role played in the Fund's activities by other United Nations agencies, and should formally encourage those agencies to take into account the Council's decisions and priorities whenever they acted as executing agencies for UNFPA.

28. Mrs. RACICOT (Canada) said that country programmes were the basic stuff of UNFPA activities, and her delegation would welcome more discussion of them by all members of the Council. Her delegation noted with satisfaction the geographical concentration in Africa of four out of the five new projects submitted for Council approval, and the fact that the four countries involved were priority countries in which basic needs assessment exercises had been carried out. Although steps were clearly being taken to improve country level planning in UNFPA, the comprehensive programmes lacked vital information on the monitoring and evaluation processes to be used by the Fund and the executing agencies. Accordingly, her delegation supported the call from Sweden for an explanation of how the results of previous evaluations had been taken into consideration in project planning, and what specific monitoring and evaluation systems it was planned to use in country projects.

29. She requested an explanation of the large percentage of the proposed programme for Zaire - over $500,000 - that was to be devoted to the acquisition of vehicles.

30. No indication was given of how the programmes affecting the regional and interregional training and research centres would eventually lead to the centres' becoming self-financing. The centres should seek to diversify their sources of funding in the short term, and to attain complete financial independence in the long run.

31. Her delegation agreed with the steps taken to rationalize some of the funds previously allocated to Thailand, and suggested that similar procedures should be applied to other country programmes in the future. Although her Government was well aware of some of the successes of the Thai programme, the allocation for Thailand, which was not a priority country, was the largest of the five new programmes proposed in 1983. She wondered whether that was consistent with the Council's decision to concentrate on the priority countries, and whether the Thai programme might not be rather ambitious.

32. Mrs. CHATER (Tunisia) expressed support for the Fund's proposals relating to assistance for the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres, given the importance of those institutions at the regional level. The centres deserved continuing support.

33. Mrs. SADIK (Assistant Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities), replying to questions raised during the discussion, said that allocations for family planning in 1983 thus far represented 47 per cent of resources, and UNFPA was confident that a level of approximately 50 per cent could...
be achieved in the forthcoming planning period. There had admittedly been a slight decline in population education and communications activities in 1982, but allocations in 1983 already stood at a level of 16.5 per cent, and the projection for 1984 was 19.5 per cent.

34. Several delegations had commented on the need to maintain the comprehensive population programmes and to concentrate on programmes affecting women and the role of women. The UNFPA/ILO project on demographic change and the role of women had produced a large number of publications; the project was expected to end in 1983, but UNFPA would look at offshoots from it for possible future funding at the country level.

35. The promised paper on contraceptive supplies had not yet been written. It had been felt that sample countries from each region should be studied before the document was prepared, and not all the requisite studies had yet been completed. Since UNFPA had already been instructed to prepare a number of other reports, she would not undertake to produce such a paper for the forthcoming session. Funds spent by UNFPA on contraceptives had amounted to some $6 million in 1981, $8 million in 1982 and $5 million to date in 1983.

36. The reduction in expenditure levels on intercountry programmes was partly the result of the lower implementation rate and partly the result of uncertainty about resource levels in 1981 and 1982. The Fund had only now learned what resources it would have available for 1983, and that did not make for the most effective planning.

37. One delegation had queried the expenditure of some $3 million more than forecast on country programmes in 1982. The excess was perhaps due to changes in nomenclature affecting some of the projects involved. She would provide a more specific reply in writing at a later date.

38. She had the impression that most delegations supported the concept of "multi-bi", provided that it did not become a major part of UNFPA operations. UNFPA would agree with that. It was considering the whole area of multi-bi and looking for ways of ensuring that a large amount of staff time was not spent on multi-bi-financed projects.

39. UNFPA tried in its projects to strengthen the capacity of countries to find resources and technical assistance for themselves, to prepare equipment specifications, to locate sources of equipment and to implement their own programmes. Discussions were under way on how to enhance such procedures in projects where direct execution seemed the best route to follow. UNFPA policy was always regarded as the standard to be followed in specialized agency implementation of UNFPA-supported projects, and the Fund was empowered by the Economic and Social Council to seek the most effective executing agent in each case. A decision along the lines suggested by the representative of the United States could, she thought, be worked into the final decision of the Governing Council concerning UNFPA.
40. The delegations of Canada and Japan had called for a review of needs assessment. It might be possible to submit to the Council at its thirty-first session a paper on planning procedures, taking into account the experience gained so far of needs assessments and their place in the programming process and discussing whether second assessments were necessary.

41. In reply to the questions concerning assistance to the regional and interregional demographic training and research centres, she said that the amount to be provided to CEDOR in 1983 was $441,000, as against $339,000 in 1982. The apparent increase was in fact the unexpended portion of the 1982 allocation resulting from the postponement of one seminar until 1983.

42. The Moscow State University training programme did not fall into the same category as the others, in that UNFPA provided no direct inputs and financed only the travel and other expenses of trainees and consultants. Two courses were planned in 1983 and the projected allocation was $99,000 as against $84,000 in 1982. In the next four years, the programme would continue to offer two training courses annually and about 17 students were expected to enrol in each course.

43. In the case of CEDOR, the host Government provided the premises, three full-time and six to eight part-time professional staff and all technical and administrative services. All local costs were provided by the Government, and UNFPA contributions went towards the salary of a full-time director, short-term consultancies and fellowships for about 17 students from abroad.

44. The programmes at CEDOR and Moscow State University did, therefore, fit the IIPS model, since in all three cases most of the local costs were provided by the host Government.

45. IFOD and RIPS had been established only in 1971, and expenditures had therefore been somewhat higher. The contribution to IFOD in 1982 had been $787,000 and that for 1983 would be $858,000; the contribution to RIPS in 1982 had been $834,000 and that for 1983 would be $865,000. In both cases, the host Government contributed the premises and three full-time professional staff members. IFOD also received a number of research assistants and some very small contributions from participating Governments, amounting to less than 1 per cent of the total budget. France, USAID and the host Government itself also contributed.

46. The case of CDC and CELADE was somewhat different. CDC was an interregional centre serving both Africa and the Middle East and, having been founded as long ago as 1963, was already well established. The host Government made a contribution of 120,000 Egyptian pounds, which covered the cost of administrative staff, rental of premises and payments to some national teaching staff. Full-time teaching staff was not provided by the host Government. UNFPA provided funds for a director, international experts up to a maximum of 72 man-months, 34 interregional fellowships and 15 Egyptian fellowships. Discussions were taking place with a view to nationalizing some aspects of the Centre and the Council would be kept informed of their progress. CELADE had been established in 1967 as a demographic research centre and had become the population programme of ECLA in 1967. UNFPA contributions to CELADE - $470,000 in 1980 and the same amount in 1983 - covered only actual training costs.
47. With regard to the duration of support for the centres, the situation differed from one to another. IIPS was a national centre and would remain in existence even without UNFPA support. Such support should, however, continue as long as training needs in Asia and the Pacific warranted it.

48. As stated by a number of delegations, the two African centres still required a certain amount of time in order to become self-reliant and self-sufficient. ECA was aware of the problem and had secured contributions from Governments for the IFOD centre, but financial self-reliance for the centres could not be expected until the 1990s. Efforts would be made to lower costs at CDC, and both the host Government and DTCD were in agreement on that matter.

49. UNFPA had scheduled a meeting in September 1983 of the economic commissions and the directors of the centres in order to determine final allocations to the centres for the next four years. The guidelines given by the Council would be observed, and the resource limitation embodied in the Fund's own recommendation was $3.5 million as against the current annual allocation level of about $3.9 million. UNFPA could report back to the Council in the course of the year with an information note on the result of negotiations with each individual centre. However, a decision on the centres was necessary at the present session, since they needed four-year commitments. They had been informed that all intercountry programmes would end in 1983 and that future support would depend on decisions taken by the Council.

50. The subject of the update of the review and reassessment had been raised by the delegations of Canada, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany. The Council seemed to feel that it merely monitored the financial planning of UNFPA, but that was not entirely true, since it had to approve all projects involving more than $1 million. It was only for projects and programmes of less than that amount that authority had been delegated to the Executive Director. It was in that context that the update of the review and assessment, when discussing new projects, had stated that the Executive Director could have approved a number of those projects under the approval authority delegated to him. Several of the allocations had come as a result of a needs assessment, and it had therefore been felt desirable to present a comprehensive programme to the Council. The total cost of the programmes was $17 million, of which $3 million came from ongoing programmes now subsumed into the new programme. In three countries, Benin, Malawi and the Niger, the Council had already approved large-scale family health projects. In addition to the amounts that would be approved by the Council for the five African countries, another $3.5 million would be spent in those countries under projects previously approved by the Council. Thus, while the programme for Thailand was the largest, the others were larger in proportion to size and capacity.

51. Zaire was the only country where a large-scale country project, for a national census, had been proposed. It was one of only three countries in Africa which had not taken a census, the others being Chad and Ethiopia. The reason for the large number of vehicles proposed was that Zaire was a large country and it had been estimated by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development that, for cartographic work, that number of vehicles was necessary. The original request had been even larger.
52. As she had mentioned, the Council not only monitored financial planning but approved all programmes and projects of over $1 million. In 1982 the Council had also approved the "Review and reassessment" which contained not only data on income assumptions and overall resource utilization, but also a detailed allocation schedule for all Council-approved country programmes broken down by year and by region, with additional information on the priority countries concerned. As the representative of Japan had pointed out, that had not been done for the current year. A different format for the work plan would be presented in 1984, because it would be an approval document, and any suggestions on presentation would be most welcome. Subject to its approval of the new financial regulations, the Council would approve the work plan and thereby become more directly involved in decision-making on financial matters rather than simply monitoring them. A degree of flexibility was required, since actual income did not always correspond with projections, and when projects were delayed the allocation of more resources to other projects should be permitted. Such matters were reported to the Council in the year-end allocation figures, but that should perhaps be done in a more structured manner. The suggestion by the delegation of Canada that there should be a listing of all Governing Council projects by amount and by year was a good one and created no difficulty.

53. Many delegations had noted that very conservative income assumptions had been made, but some had suggested that even those were too optimistic. Allocations for future years were planned only at the level of the current year, and expected increases were not taken into account. Nevertheless, in 1982, future programming included an annual overprogramming of 5 per cent. An even more cautious approach was now necessary, and the Executive Director did not plan to continue overprogramming at the 5 per cent level for all four years, but only on a year-by-year basis.

54. As a consequence of the lower implementation rates, allocations with their resources of $9.1 million had been carried forward from 1982 to 1983. That amount would have been lower if in 1982 overprogramming had been greater than the 5 per cent permitted by the Council. It was for that reason that it was suggested in paragraph 14 of document DP/1983/20 that the Council might consider raising the level of overprogramming to between 5 and 10 per cent. In previous years UNFPA had used a 10 per cent figure for internal purposes. There was a conflict between two goals; conservative planning would argue for little or no overprogramming, while the full use of available resources required a certain degree of overprogramming since actual implementation always lagged somewhat behind. The 5 per cent authorized by the Council in 1983 was a safe middle course.

55. On the question on monitoring, as distinct from evaluation, she said that every project document contained an agreement for a tripartite review. In almost all countries tripartite reviews were carried out at the field level with or without the participation of headquarters or outside staff. In selected countries, annual country reviews took place where problems had been encountered, where a mid-year assessment was necessary or where a second programme phase was under consideration. Such country reviews were prepared in a meticulous manner, based on...
tripartite review reporting, with country background documents on all the problems involved and on the roles and responsibilities of the various parties concerned. Not only the Government and the Ministry concerned were involved but also the Ministry of Finance, which in most countries made the final decision on allocations.

56. Mr. WITTRIN (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities) said that many constructive comments had been made on the subject of evaluation. While UNFPA recognized its importance and performed its evaluation functions more effectively than many other organizations, it was nevertheless fully aware that increasing attention could be paid to that area. UNFPA fully associated itself with the principle of built-in evaluations. It was interested in mid-point reviews and mechanisms that went beyond monitoring.

57. Evaluation theory contained many academic concepts which were not reflected by reality. Evaluations were therefore sometimes flimsy and contained little more than a listing of what had gone wrong rather than any very thorough analysis. UNFPA would nevertheless respond to the request by the delegation of Sweden for a report to the Council at its thirty-first session on the use of evaluation results. The Fund was proud of some of its evaluations carried out by independent expertise, eight of which had been planned for the current year.

58. The Government of Sweden was carrying out a review of its bilateral assistance and of the multilateral assistance rendered by UNFPA and IPPF in the area of family planning and population matters in general. UNFPA would assist in that study to the fullest extent possible.

59. Many delegations had welcomed the attainment of the goal of two thirds of country programme resources being allocated to priority countries. One delegation had surmised that the reason for that had been the expansion of the list of priority countries at the twenty-ninth session of the Governing Council. It should be added that in 1982 there had been 30 priority countries and 14 border-line countries for a total of 44. There were now 53 priority countries, so that a true increase had occurred.

60. Informal consultations had taken place with the delegation of Sweden, which had requested the Executive Director to provide the Council at its thirty-second session with a report regarding the experience gained by the Fund in using the present set of criteria for selecting priority countries. The priority system had been formally approved by the Council at its twenty-ninth session and had therefore taken effect as from 1 January 1983. Any meaningful review could only be undertaken after three or four years had elapsed. Several delegations had supported such a review, which might take place at the thirty-fourth session of the Council.

61. It had been gratifying to hear the supportive statements on the accomplishments of UNFPA in promoting and strengthening awareness of population issues and in building up a body of literature. While UNFPA planned to continue those activities, funding for them had to be found within the well-known 25 per cent limit. Even if such activities were intellectual in nature, they did involve expenditure on expertise and even on such mundane items as paper.
62. The delegation of Zambia had suggested that UNFPA should set up a procurement system. The Fund had recently been informed that UNICEF, because of difficulties of a delicate political nature with its national committees, would discontinue the provision of contraceptives to UNFPA on an agency basis. UNFPA would therefore build up a very limited procurement system for recipient countries.

63. Mr. SALAS (Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities) said that he wished to respond positively to the request of the delegation of Sweden for two written reports, one containing a problem-oriented analysis of the experience of UNFPA in family planning, and the other on the use of incentives and disincentives in population programmes. The two reports would be before the Council at its next session.

64. On the matter of the co-ordination of programme activities, members could be assured that UNFPA relationships with all executing agencies had never been better. With particular reference to the remark made by the representative of the Netherlands, he said that the relationship between UNFPA and UNDP had been further clarified by some of the rules approved by the Council in its Budgetary and Finance Committee. The UNDP co-ordinators were also representatives of UNFPA, and former UNFPA co-ordinators were now senior advisers or assistant deputy resident representatives. In its relationships with executing agencies, UNFPA should be aware of the mandates directly referring to UNFPA in the execution of those projects. In the field of population, the organizations of the United Nations system were very well co-ordinated and very responsive to the directives of the Governing Council.

65. With regard to fund-raising, it had been asked whether the 5.5 per cent estimate for 1983 was realistic. The answer to that lay partly with delegations. Discussions with donors had shown a great probability that a new round of contributions could be mobilized to reach the 5.5 per cent target. Whether that 5.5 per cent could be increased to 7.8 per cent in 1984 would depend on the outcome of the discussions, the performance of UNFPA and the perception of that performance by donors.

66. Several factors were helping UNFPA. The International Conference on Population was providing a platform for the clarification of programmes and demonstrating the capacity of the Fund to respond to the needs of developing countries.

67. All income projections had been based on minimum expectations, but the minimum assumption should not be taken as an acknowledgement that there was no need for more funds. The delegation of Japan had introduced a novel idea, that of securing resources from private organizations. That suggestion deserved a positive response, and a report on the possibility of soliciting funds from private sources would be before the Council at its thirty-first session. The rules were clear; the ability of the Fund to accept private donations was restricted. Private contributions came largely from individuals committed to the population cause.
68. Some 24 delegations had spoken of the International Conference on Population. It was time to reassess the effectiveness of population programmes and to study population trends and projections. His statement to the Governing Council at its thirty-first session would cover the discussions and conclusions of the four study groups and the preparatory studies for the Conference.

69. He wished to assure the representatives of Denmark, Ecuador, the Gambia and Norway that UNFPA would continue to pay particular attention to the question of the role of women, which would be a prominent item at the forthcoming Conference. He also wished to assure the representative of the United States that the Fund would take care to involve non-governmental organizations in its activities and that it attached particular importance to inputs from such organizations at the Conference. Furthermore, he noted the request made by many delegations that a greater volume of resources should be allocated to direct country programmes.

70. Time perspective was particularly important in the field of population. The international community must be aware both of the stabilization in population growth that was approaching in the long term and of trends in population growth in the short term.

71. Mr. WITTRIN (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities), responding to a suggestion made by the representative of the Philippines, said that an interim report on the experience gained in using the criteria for qualification as a priority country could be submitted at the thirty-second session of the Council. He noted that the representative of Tunisia had expressed concerns similar to those voiced by the representative of the Philippines.

72. The President suggested that the matter should be considered further in the Drafting Committee.

73. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the recommendations made by the Executive Director of UNFPA in document DP/1983/20, paragraph 42, and document DP/1983/L.9, paragraph 2.

74. It was so decided.

75. Mr. DANBOLT (Observer for Norway), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, said that the Nordic countries understood the problems resulting from the reduction in financing made available to the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development by UNDP and UNFPA. However, they had always been among the strongest advocates of a reorientation of the Fund's activities towards projects with a direct bearing on population issues, such as family planning, and they therefore regarded that development as a natural consequence of a desirable change in priorities. They appreciated the endeavour by
the Department to keep administrative costs to a minimum and wished it success in its efforts to achieve more flexibility in its operations and a greater degree of delegation of authority to it.

76. He noted from the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical co-operation activities that the Department's administrative costs were financed largely out of programme support cost earnings (DP/1983/18, para. 4). The Council should be provided with information on the budgetary distribution of such costs, particularly in the case of projects and programmes executed on behalf of UNDP and UNFPA.

77. The Nordic countries endorsed the view that implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions concerning the integration of women in development needed to be improved and appreciated the Department's activities in that area. They also believed that technical co-operation activities in the United Nations system relating to the social and humanitarian aspects of development should be intensified and that adequate funding should be made available for such activities. Furthermore, they attached particular importance to evaluation.

78. Mrs. LOECKX-DROZDIAK (Belgium) said that she wished to encourage the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development to pursue its new policy of austerity. Her delegation fully supported the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendation that the Department should be given a clear mandate, in order to avoid duplication of work. Perhaps in the future the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation could take action to avoid the duplication that had arisen in connection with the energy studies conducted by UNDP in co-operation with the World Bank and those conducted by the Department. Implementation of the JIU recommendations should enable the Department to fulfil its role as a UNDP executing agency more easily. It would be useful to know which recommendations had in fact already been implemented.

79. Her delegation had taken particular note of the qualitative and quantitative analysis of project delivery and administrative costs provided in the report of the Secretary-General ((DP/1983/18, paras. 25-32). She wondered whether the excessively high level of administrative costs was due to the fact that the Department carried out a large number of activities without remuneration, in addition to those for which it was responsible as an executing agency. Furthermore, her delegation supported the statement by the observer for Norway concerning programme support cost earnings and believed that in future the relevant section of the report should be considered by the Budgetary and Finance Committee, together with the corresponding annex.

80. It could be seen from section III of the report that the Department had great potential, and there should be a selective evaluation of the impact of its projects. Information concerning budget levels, project duration, number of experts and any contributions from other agencies should be provided. The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs should be consulted in connection with any such evaluation exercise.
OTHER MATTERS

81. The PRESIDENT suggested, on behalf of the members of the Bureau, that Mr. Fernandez (Philippines) should act as Chairman of the Drafting Committee in the absence of the Vice-President of the Council.

82. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.