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Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
on Monday, 6 June 1988, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. MANGWAZU (Malawi)

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United Nations Population Fund (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) (agenda item 6) (continued)  
(DP/1988/32, Parts I and II, 34-37 and Add.1-5, 38-44)

General debate (continued)

1. Ms. FRANKINET (Belgium) said she noted with satisfaction the more than 11 per cent increase in UNFPA's resources in 1987 as compared with the previous year. Such an unexpected development confirmed the importance attached by most Governments to the implementation of population policies and programmes with the assistance of the international community.
2. Her Government continued to contribute to the Fund's general resources and also co-financed the regional population and development training centre at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve while the free University of Brussels was executing a number of training projects financed by UNFPA.
3. At its next session, the Governing Council should examine the evaluation of the experience which had been gained in the population field. The results of that study should assist the Fund in orienting its future activities. Such activities should continue to give priority to operational programmes having a measurable impact in the population field; academic research should be confined to other appropriate agencies.
4. While many of the Fund's activities stemmed directly from its mandate, others came close to the competence of other agencies. In a number of cases, UNFPA collaborated with such agencies as, for example, with UNICEF and WHO in mother and child health and with UNDP and UNIFEM regarding the promotion of women. In such areas, UNFPA should concentrate its activities on projects or parts thereof which were directly related to population; such, for example, would be the family planning aspects of a larger project on mother and child health, or the population information aspect of a project on women's education.
5. Consideration of the orientation to be given to the Fund's regional and interregional programmes in the future had been begun two years previously and should be continued. Such activities represented more than 30 per cent of the Fund's expenditure but the description given to the Governing Council had been global and brief. Projects were rarely presented separately and their individual cost was not mentioned. Moreover, as the Governing Council had stressed, certain expenditure currently included under regional projects should have been imputed to country programmes, when they were directly linked to the execution of such programmes.
6. Her Government fully supported the Executive Director's intention to prepare future country programmes on the basis of specific and measurable goals, identified by means of evaluations. It also welcomed the growing importance attached to projects for the integration of population questions into development plans and to the strengthening of the capacities of recipient countries in that area. The trend towards attaching greater importance to UNFPA projects on population groups outside the general evolutionary process was also interesting.
7. Her delegation also hoped that UNFPA, like other agencies of the United Nations system, would, at the project formulation stage, take proper

account of the issue of recurrent costs; it fully supported UNFPA's decision to include elements of the anti-AIDS programme in its projects, in close co-ordination with the other agencies of the United Nations system; and thought it particularly important for the Fund to bear in mind the need to assure complementarity and co-ordination of the activities of different agencies. In that connection, the agreements between UNFPA and UNDP on country programming were very positive. Simultaneous presentation during the current session of the country programmes of UNDP and UNFPA for three African countries would facilitate a coherent examination of the various activities proposed and would represent a first step towards the harmonization of programming cycles.

8. The conclusions reached on that issue during the current debate might form one element in the Governing Council's reply to the Economic and Social Council on the conclusions of the Jansson Report and General Assembly resolution 42/196. Her delegation would welcome comments on the importance attached by UNFPA to the work of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (SCGP) on the UNFPA field offices not attached to the UNDP offices and on collaboration between UNFPA and the World Bank.

9. In conclusion she wished to stress - as ACABQ had already done - that the work of the Budgetary and Finance Committee would have been simplified if more detailed explanations had been provided on the various proposals for restructuring and strengthening the Secretariat with a view to enhancing its effectiveness.

10. Mr. CHAMORRO (Spain) said that the unprecedented total of 2,756 projects supported by UNFPA at the end of 1987 was eloquent testimony to the enthusiasm and dedication of its staff as also was the stabilization of administrative costs at 15.6 per cent of total income.

11. His delegation, which fully endorsed the priorities set for The Strategy for UNFPA Assistance in Sub-Saharan Africa, expressed the hope that the grave nature of the population problems facing those countries would be progressively reflected in the resources allocated to projects.

12. In Latin America there were some specific problems relating in particular to migration and marginal urbanization. His delegation fully supported the efforts of the Fund to integrate population questions with those of economic development. It should also be remembered that demographic growth in the region was far from homogeneous.

13. In connection with the Review of the Programme by Priority Programme Area, (DP/1988/32 (Part II)), his Government agreed with the proposed percentage distribution of resources between activities which were of immediate concern, such as family planning programmes, and those with a longer-term thrust, such as those relating to information, education and awareness of population problems. Such activities must be given adequate means for the design and implementation of population policies responding to national needs.

14. His delegation welcomed the Fund's participation in the WHO-sponsored Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Aids, as that disease threatened prospects for development throughout the world. Because of the specific nature of its family planning and sex education programmes, the Fund was in a unique position to contribute to the Strategy.

15. Mr. SAHLMANN (Federal Republic of Germany), having commended the Executive Director for her valuable report (DP/1988/32) which not only provided much useful information but identified the links between population, environment and resources, said that the report showed that countries which had been successful in slowing their population growth did not belong to the group of the most advanced developing countries; what they had in common was that the difference between poor and rich people was smaller, the rate of illiteracy and infant mortality lower and the nutrition better than in other developing countries.

16. The following four key issues must be addressed, if success in family planning was to be achieved: the position of women in society; the degree of health care for mothers and children; information about and access to family planning services; and, last but not least, the level of education of women. With the support of the German Association for the United Nations, the report had been widely disseminated and positively received in his country.

17. His delegation attached particular importance to two issues, namely: the priority given to Africa and the necessary collaboration between different United Nations agencies. In Africa, needs were overwhelming and it was not to be expected that the Fund would be able to go even half way towards meeting them. The Fund should concentrate on low-income African sub-Saharan countries which were still at the beginning of demographic cycles: high fertility and high mortality, particularly high infant mortality. It was thus welcome news that UNFPA programme funds spent in sub-Saharan Africa had grown substantially in 1987 in absolute figures and had also registered a moderate increase as a percentage of total programme expenditure. The growing share of family planning activities in the Fund's overall activities corresponded to concerns which had been expressed by his own and other delegations and that trend should be continued.

18. For the first time, the country programmes of UNFPA and UNDP for the same country would be discussed together, at the current session, a welcome development that reflected the concerns expressed at prior sessions of the Governing Council. It would be even more important to establish closer co-operation and co-ordination between the two Funds and in the preparation of their countries' programmes. The most appropriate solution would be a single document outlining the technical co-operation needs of the country in question and the respective assistance of UNDP and UNFPA. His delegation saw no reason why UNICEF should not also participate in such a joint effort.

19. His delegation was pleased to learn that the Fund was aware of the socio-cultural dimension of population assistance, since it felt strongly that the failure or success of development projects depended in no small measure on the extent to which socio-cultural factors were incorporated at the earliest moment into the life cycle of the project. It wholeheartedly agreed with the approach that population issues should be an integral part of overall development efforts; an approach that should be translated into operational terms involving joint programming of all operational activities of the United Nations system.

20. As for the Fund's evaluation activities, evaluation itself was only the first step in improving programme and project quality. What counted was the feedback into the system and the assurance that the lessons learnt had been fully taken care of in the design and implementation of future projects. He

commended the Fund for having adopted a computerized data base as a prerequisite to that end. Efforts should nevertheless continue to ensure that full use was made of the material at the technical level.

21. His delegation hoped that the Executive Director would include in the Fund's country strategy papers, for longer term consideration such questions as the problem of the increasing share in societies of the aged, who must continue to have their basis of subsistence secured at a time when the productive strata of the population were shrinking as a result of successful population policies.

22. In conclusion, it was regrettable that a major donor had unfortunately once again been unable to rejoin the group of contributors to UNFPA, in that his delegation took the view that no major industrialized country could afford to abstain from contributing to the resources of UNFPA.

23. Mr. GIOVANNINI (Switzerland) said that it was important for every country to harmonize economic growth and demographic changes. That was equally true for both industrialized countries with an ageing population and developing countries facing the problems of integrating a young, numerous and dynamic generation into its active life. It was increasingly important, therefore, that population questions be integrated into development strategies as an element contributing to enhanced living conditions. His delegation welcomed the concentration into one week of the discussion on UNFPA and the continuing increase in UNFPA's resources, notwithstanding the withdrawal of its principal donor. His own Government had no doubt regarding the usefulness of the Fund and would continue its support.

24. He wished to thank the Executive Director for her welcome to himself and his colleagues during their visits to four African and Asian countries; those visits had enabled them to form a better understanding of the tasks and challenges facing the Fund.

25. His delegation was satisfied with the performance of UNFPA in such activities as the compilation of basic demographic data, information on family planning and the distribution of contraceptives. There were, however, regions where such activities were insufficient. In certain countries too high a demographic growth rate represented, even to the Governments concerned, a threat to socio-economic development, because of the resulting disequilibrium between population and the resources available. In spite of years of intense effort by Governments and organizations such as UNFPA and WHO, and notwithstanding the substantial resources which had been invested, results had too often been disappointing and there had been no noticeable decrease in the birth rate.

26. It was essential in such cases to find new approaches which would increase the effectiveness of the actions taken. A necessary precondition for the development of new strategies to address such problems could only be achieved through special research in the areas of increasing awareness and communication in regard to demographic problems in general and family planning in particular, and some progress had already been achieved under UNFPA auspices along those lines.

27. The evaluation of projects could also contribute to the refinement of approaches. His delegation had however noted that most research studies

financed by the Fund had confined themselves to describing symptoms and extrapolating demographic prospects on the basis of statistical data rather than identifying the reasons for the success or failure of specific information campaigns on family planning. The problems currently needing to be addressed were to be found in the context in which information was distributed, such as the socio-cultural and psychological obstacles to the adoption of family-planning methods. Only in that way would it be possible to identify the motivating factors which might affect particular communities.

28. Such studies should pay particular attention to local circumstances and should be undertaken by sociologists, ethnologists and psychologists, whose ultimate role would be to prepare, on the basis of such research, new methods for advisory services in the field of family planning and the promotion of awareness of demographic problems. Such research could also facilitate the identification of key groups which had shown themselves to be more receptive and could serve as disseminators of information, e.g. female family heads in an urban environment.

29. In that connection, the emphasis placed on such research in the field of population in connection with the strategy for UNFPA assistance in sub-Saharan Africa had been very promising. That approach should not be limited to Africa, however, but could also be successfully applied in other regions, particularly those where population density was causing concern to Governments.

30. It would also be interesting to study the possible impact on specific groups of the dissemination of information on natural birth-control methods. Such methods had the advantage that they did not depend on logistics going beyond the village community with the additional benefit that they were accessible to women, who for economic or socio-cultural reasons, could not visit distant contraceptive distribution points.

31. His delegation approved UNFPA's future programme but wished, once again, to stress the importance of integrating family planning into health programmes. It was also interesting that, on the issue of evaluation, the Fund had decided to proceed on a country programme basis and not on a project-by-project one.

32. A main factor favouring diminished fertility and mortality at both the infant and maternal levels, was to be found in the level of education of women and the enhancement of their status in society. It was therefore essential to continue to encourage the education of girls and the access of women to economic activities outside the home.

33. His delegation would also welcome some preliminary information from the Executive Director on the progress of work on the in-depth study which had been started the previous year.

34. Mr. QIAN Jadong (China) said that the fact that, in 1987, contributions to UNFPA had increased by 11.8 per cent as compared with 1986 and that the pledge for 1988 had registered a still further increase, demonstrated the international community's support for UNFPA activities. As a result of many years of effort, the growth of the world's population had slowed down but the situations still remained very grave, since projections indicated that the global population would increase to 8 billion by the year 2025 and that

over 90 per cent of the growth would take place in the developing countries, where rapid growth already severely hindered socio-economic development. It was the common responsibility of developing and developed countries alike to solve the population problem by working out effective policies to implement the principles adopted by the World Population Conference.

35. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that, in 1987, UNFPA had increased its allocation for Women in Development: the important role of women in population control had long been universally acknowledged, but it was still being seriously affected by sexual inequality. His delegation hoped that UNFPA would help recipient Governments to establish more diversified projects for women, with a wider coverage of beneficiaries, so that quicker results could be obtained. His Government would actively support UNFPA in that regard.

36. His delegation also noted with satisfaction that, in 1987, UNFPA had increased its allocation to the sub-Saharan region, to over \$30 million and had strengthened its field offices there. At the same time, it was to be hoped that UNFPA would continue to give due attention to population problems in Asia and other regions. His delegation also appreciated the realignment of UNFPA which had strengthened its regional divisions and the Technical Evaluation Division at headquarters and had delegated more authority to its deputy resident representatives. It was also necessary to readjust and strengthen the staffing of certain UNFPA field offices to match the scale of the various country programmes.

37. In conclusion, he referred to the current population situation in China, the most populous nation in the world. His Government had formulated a basic national policy of "control population quantity and improve its quality" and had successfully called upon the Chinese people to practise family planning on a voluntary basis, with the result that over the preceding decade the number of births in China had been reduced by nearly 200 million. However, China was currently experiencing a new "baby boom" and the natural growth rate had increased from 11.23 per cent in 1985 to 14.8 per cent in 1987. According to the 1 per cent sample survey conducted in that year, the population of mainland China already exceeded 1.07 billion and it was anticipated that, in the coming decade, there would be over 150 million births annually. It would thus be a long and arduous task for his Government to implement its national population policy and end the problems caused by the sustained growth of population. Undoubtedly the solution to the country's problems depended mainly on the efforts of the Government itself and the voluntary support of its people. However, it attached great importance to co-operation with the international organizations and friendly countries.

38. Mr. NANAŌ (Japan) said that the UNFPA publication State of World Population, 1988, with its timely choice of theme, "Population and Environment", had been translated into Japanese by the Japanese Organization for International Co-operation in Family Planning (JOICPP) and had attracted considerable attention from the Japanese public. He hoped that UNFPA would publish such a report annually.

39. It was inevitable that the tremendous population growth expected in the developing countries would affect their social and economic development, particularly with regard to food and housing conditions. On the other hand,

developed countries also had problems, as described in the State of World Population, in respect of ageing and of international migration. It was important, therefore, to increase awareness of the gravity of population issues, which required close international co-operation. Japan, whose current population was about 120 million, was facing a rapidly ageing population and it was anticipated that people over 65 would constitute 20 per cent of the total population by the year 2000. As a country which had solved its population increase problem, Japan was contributing positively to population activities through UNFPA and through bilateral assistance. In that connection, his delegation noted with pleasure that Mrs. Shizue Kato of Japan had received the 1988 United Nations Population Award.

40. Turning to UNFPA's activities in 1987, he expressed satisfaction at the increase in the total income of the Fund and appreciation of the contributions of three first-time donors, the Central African Republic, Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania. His Government had increased its contribution in 1987 to \$US 48.93 million, including a contribution earmarked for the IPPF. It was to be hoped that contributions would continue to increase. His delegation welcomed the fact that, in 1987, UNFPA had allocated its resources intensively to the Asia-Pacific region, where about 60 per cent of the world's population was concentrated, and that the African region, which had problems caused by drought and rapid population growth, had received an increased percentage. It also approved the priorities adopted in the allocation of funds as between country programmes, priority countries and family planning. It was therefore able to support the proposed increase of field staff by 61 posts, since most of the increase occurred in the sub-Saharan region.

41. However, his delegation was concerned that the project implementation rate in 1987 had fallen to 80.28 per cent, compared with 87.4 per cent in 1986. The situation must be improved in 1988. UNFPA evaluation activities were important for the overall improvement of Fund-assisted programmes. In March 1988, his Government had sent its own evaluation mission to the African region, including UNFPA project sites.

42. His delegation appreciated the informative document on the proposed UNFPA Intercountry Programme, 1988-1991 (DP/1988/37 and Add.1-5). The objective of such programmes, which was to support country programmes, should be taken fully into account in implementing them. The new approach of basing the level of programme approval in the Work Plan for 1989-1992 (DP/1988/34) on new programmable resources was commendable and in line with the recommendations of the External Auditors. He also welcomed the proposed increase of activities in sub-Saharan Africa, provided that it was not achieved at the expense of the populous Asia-Pacific region.

43. Turning to the revised budget estimates for the 1988-1989 biennium (DP/1988/39) and staffing requirement (DP/1988/42), he observed that, although it was satisfactory that the Fund's income in 1987 had been \$22 million more than estimated, UNFPA should not be over-optimistic in planning its future activities. With regard to the Headquarters reorganization, his delegation thought such extensive restructuring of organizational units and redistribution of staffing resources should have taken place only after consultations with UNFPA staff members at all levels, with members of the Governing Council and with other United Nations organs. Japan, as one of the major donor countries, had considerable interest in increasing UNFPA efficiency but regrettably its views had not been sought and neither ACABQ nor



the Governing Council had been consulted beforehand. His delegation was not convinced of the usefulness of the restructuring in maximizing efficiency and eliminating duplication of work and had some difficulty in understanding how the establishment of major new committees and the revision of the mandates of existing ones would help towards improving the management of the Fund.

44. His delegation endorsed the innovative policy of delegating authority to approve certain projects to the UNFPA Deputy Representative and Senior Adviser on Population (DRSAP). It would be useful if a report on its implementation were submitted to the Council in 1989. However, his delegation was seriously concerned by the fact that the staff of the Office of the Executive Director had considerably increased, since that seemed to be a move towards centralization rather than decentralization. Furthermore, his delegation endorsed the recommendation of ACABQ to the Council (DP/1988/43) not to approve the request to reclassify upwards the posts of Chief, Special Unit for Women, Population and Development, and Chief, Division for Finance, Personnel and Administration. The overall classification of posts should be considered in the long-term perspective and, in the first place, by the UNDP/UNFPA Classification Panel, in accordance with the standard practice established by the International Civil Service Commission.

45. For those reasons, his delegation was unable to approve the Executive Director's report (DP/1988/42), as it stood, and considered that it should be resubmitted to the 1989 session. Furthermore, according to the ACABQ report, an ASG-level post had been filled despite the recent report of the Secretary-General in which that post had been specifically mentioned as one of three that would not be filled. He hoped to receive a full explanation from the Secretariat during the session with regard to the issues he had mentioned.

46. Mr. KELLAND (Denmark) said that the increase in UNFPA resources in real terms was an impressive achievement in view of the fact that the largest donor had temporarily ceased to contribute. It reflected the high priority accorded by other donors to population problems. His own Government planned to maintain its aid to population programmes, but the relatively comfortable financial situation should not lead to less careful planning of expenditure and priority must continue to be given to field activities.

47. The increasing focus on sub-Saharan Africa was well justified since the relation between economic development and population growth was particularly evident in that region and the environmental aspects posed some very serious problems. His delegation approved of the continuing trend towards the increased expenditure for family planning and for information, education and communication. That was not to detract from the importance of data collection and the formulation and evaluation of population policies, which were prerequisites for efficient family planning programmes, but once they had been established, the relative weight of activities with a direct impact must be increased.

48. His delegation welcomed progress in the field of evaluation and commended the frankness of some of the documentation. The next step was a further improvement in the utilization of evaluation material through increased exchange of information with other donors and recipients, particularly generally applicable results and conclusions. The Working Group might further discuss that matter, as well as considering the possibilities for increased co-operation on evaluation between UNDP and UNFPA. The efforts to integrate

Women in Development aspects into all projects seemed to be proceeding satisfactorily, but it was important that the role of men should also be fully recognized.

49. Several speakers had referred to the desirability of increased co-operation with other donors, especially those within the United Nations system. In that connection, he welcomed the paragraphs on external assistance in various country programmes and hoped that, in future, they might contain more precise and comprehensive statistical information. The next step would be to review how co-ordination took place in practice in the field and a few examples might be discussed in the Working Group. In particular, consideration which should be given to relationships with WHO, UNICEF and some of the non-governmental organizations, especially IPPF. Practical co-operation with UNDP and the role of the UNDP field offices should also be taken fully into account.

50. He welcomed the Executive Director's informal paper on the Jansson Report and General Assembly resolution 42/196. It appeared from paragraph 14 of that paper that co-operation at the headquarters level was well under way. It was also rightly stressed that co-operation at the field level was more important. His delegation hoped to hear more about the progress made and the difficulties encountered in field co-operation as more experience was gained.

51. He commended the UNDP/WHO alliance on AIDS, the main purpose of which was to utilize UNDP's field network to track the problems associated with the spread of that disease. It was to be assumed that UNFPA, which had recognized the relationship between the fight against AIDS and population programmes, would make full use of the opportunities provided by the alliance.

52. His delegation noted with satisfaction the increased emphasis on technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC), to which projects in the population field lent themselves particularly well. It was surprising, however, that, according to the documentation, most TCDC activities had concerned Europe and Latin America whereas the largest programmes, the greatest successes and the biggest problems had occurred in Asia. As an example of TCDC activity, he mentioned the discussions currently taking place between the Indonesian Government, IPPF, the Danish Planned Parenthood Federation and his Government on arrangements to hold a seminar in Indonesia to transmit Indonesian experience to other Muslim countries.

53. In conclusion, he congratulated the Executive Director on the quality of the documentation; it was a good advertisement for the Fund's activities, which deserved to be accorded high priority by donors with, perhaps, a welcome improvement in burden-sharing.

54. Mr. BRADY (United States of America) said that UNFPA was to be commended on its efforts to improve programme efficiency and its attention to key issues. In particular, his delegation was pleased to note the Fund's continuing emphasis on family planning initiatives and women's programmes in sub-Saharan Africa, which was also a priority region for United States development assistance. In recent years, many Governments throughout that region had adopted policies to decrease population growth.

55. The United States had worked in co-operation with UNFPA in supporting surveys to provide the essential information base for effective programme

planning. There had also been co-ordinated assistance in implementing population policies to countries which included Botswana, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Togo and Zaire. A recent survey in eight African countries showed that substantial numbers of women wanted to space out or limit the size of their families: 17 to 33 per cent of those interviewed wanted to have no more children. The demand for family planning thus clearly existed in Africa in both urban and rural areas and the challenge to UNFPA and to the donor countries was to make safe and effective means of family planning readily accessible to all Africans.

56. United States population assistance in sub-Saharan Africa had increased nearly fourfold since 1981; in 1987, USAID obligations for population activities in Africa had totalled \$US 72.5 million as compared with \$US 21.9 million in 1981; and, in 1988, the United States had set up a Development Fund for Africa whose objectives included support for population/family planning activities. In addition, considerable assistance on programme management was provided by the United States Office of Population. Population/family planning programmes in Africa comprised four components, namely, policy dialogue, technology transfer, institutional development and private sector support.

57. UNFPA had proclaimed 1988 the year of the environment. For some years, the United States had included discussion of the impact of population on the environment as one of the population policy issues raised with leaders of developing countries. His Government planned to increase that emphasis in coming years. Awareness of the link between population and the environment could help leaders to recognize the need for increased commitment to family planning programmes, which were essential for achieving population growth consonant with the available natural resources, thus assuring sustainable development.

58. His delegation acknowledged the important role that UNFPA continued to play in Africa and other regions of the world. The relationship between UNFPA and the United States had been long and productive, although it had recently been severely tested for reasons well known to all. Indeed, the United States had not funded UNFPA since 1985 and was again unable to support it during the current year.

59. The \$25 million originally budgeted for the Fund had been reprogrammed to other population activities, over 90 per cent of which were field programmes in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Thus, his Government's commitment to family planning was not diminished by its inability to fund UNFPA. The USAID 1989 budget had \$20 million set aside for UNFPA. His Government looked forward to maintaining its strong working relationship with UNFPA and to continuing to co-ordinate its population activities with those of UNFPA.

60. In conclusion, he congratulated UNFPA on its publication State of World Population, 1988 which had been well received in his country by environmentalists. There was also a publication he thought worth mentioning entitled Contraceptive Safety: Rumours and Realities which reviewed various methods of contraception and was obtainable in two versions: one for specialists and the other for couples. His delegation would have more English language copies available shortly, and French and Spanish versions would shortly be published.

61. Mr. ZIELINSKI (Poland) said that, over the past 20 years, the significance of the Fund had grown steadily, in proportion to the importance of population problems in the developing countries. It had become obvious that a close interdependence existed between demographic problems and possibilities for socio-economic development. UNFPA should continue to play a major role in intensifying multilateral co-operation to solve the world's population problems.

62. His delegation, which greatly appreciated the unquestionable achievements of UNFPA and its co-operation with Poland wished to stress the importance of the UNFPA international workshop undertaken in Poland in 1987 on the use of population projections in socio-economic planning. His Government was much in favour of developing those and other forms of co-operation, and it would be prepared to undertake new projects not only within its annual financial pledges to UNFPA but also through additional contributions in kind, provided in connection with joint undertakings.

63. UNFPA had made excellent progress in helping developing countries to address their vital population and development problems. Following the most successful Pledging Conference in its history, UNFPA would be able to implement in 1988 the largest programme ever.

64. With regard to the European region, it had been rightly pointed out that UNFPA assistance had had a very strong TCDC element and that the region was particularly well-suited for providing scientific research on population because of the high quality of its demographic institutions and the availability of data bases.

65. His Government supported UNFPA in its interregional activities and considered that the current programme allocations by major function were about right. In that context, it welcomed the UNFPA special policy guidelines in support of AIDS activities and the attention given to co-operation with other organizations, in particular within the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP).

66. His delegation endorsed the UNFPA attitude towards the promotion of TCDC, but was not fully satisfied with the information provided in the report of the Executive Director (document DP/1988/32 (Part II)) on procurement of supplies and equipment. A clearer picture should have been given of the share of developing countries in that procurement and steps taken towards that end.

67. It noted with concern that according to data presented in the Work Plan for 1989-1992 (DP/1988/34), the project expenditure rate for 1987 had been lower than in the past. Every effort must be made to change that situation. It supported the approval of all 16 country programmes as well as of the comprehensive intercountry programme submitted to the Council in 1988, and it endorsed the recommendations made by the Executive Director in paragraph 33 of the Work Plan for 1989-1992 (DP/1988/34).

68. His delegation appreciated the increased emphasis UNFPA was placing on monitoring and evaluation as an integral part of its programming process. It was appropriate that the Fund was shifting substantive analysis from individual projects to country and intercountry programmes and that the results were increasingly being used to improve overall programme strategies and policies. On the whole, it supported the strategy for the forthcoming

intercountry and interregional programmes but had some doubts as to whether, within the programme for the Arab States and Europe, the latter region had been given due consideration and a fair share of UNFPA assistance according to the existing needs and potential outreach to other regions.

69. In connection with the report on the system of priority countries for population assistance (DP/1988/38), he considered that such countries should be entitled to obtain a major part of country programming resources. The figure of \$US 750 per capita GNP was an appropriate threshold for defining priority countries. However, due consideration should also be given to the needs of other countries, and additional thresholds might be established according to UNDP practice in allocating country IPFs to countries with a per capita GNP of more than \$US 750. It might also be advisable to consider additional criteria such as high differential mortality rates for demographic indicators. In general, it seemed appropriate that the report in question should be amended by criteria relevant to non-priority countries as well, in order to avoid misunderstanding when allocating resources to those countries. In any case, indicators used for any concrete decision should be strictly economic and demographic.

70. His delegation reiterated its support for UNFPA's valuable activities and its special role in solving the population problems of the developing countries. Poland was prepared to contribute in a concrete manner to that aim.

71. Ms. ALOPAEUS-STAHL (Sweden) said that, since it was not easy to follow the efforts made by the international community to safeguard the development of the world's population, analytical and thoughtful documentation was needed and the review and evaluation process initiated within the Population Fund was a welcome start.

72. Her Government had long been working actively towards increasing and improving international initiatives in the field of family planning in the developing world. In far too many countries, excessively rapid population growth continued to constitute a serious constraint to development efforts. The economic crisis of many African countries had deepened awareness of the importance of population problems, and there had been a growing demand for UNFPA assistance. The Fund had a central part to play in implementing the special programme for Africa adopted by the General Assembly in 1986. Increasing and expanding support to Africa was a fundamental part of the Fund's response. At the same time, every donor must adjust the pace of the assistance offered to the carefully assessed needs and specific conditions of the countries concerned.

73. Her Government had repeatedly stressed the interrelationship between population and environment in the development context. The strain on resources needed to meet basic human demands was alarmingly evident as populations grew and desertification, deforestation and soil erosion spread. It was essential to create a greater awareness of the importance of population factors in economic and social development and to define additional measures to be taken by individuals, community groups, countries and the international community to slow down population growth.

74. One of her Government's main goals was to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection. It was not enough to attribute blame for the misuse of natural resources; viable alternatives must

also be brought forward. Theoretical knowledge alone did not automatically lead to a change for the better. The Fund's work must be concretized. Her delegation looked forward to further reports by the Fund on how environmental issues had been incorporated into population activities.

75. Women made up half of the world's population, and in many countries of the developing world, they played a crucial part in agro-economic activities. Priority should continue to be given to the Fund's work for a wide recognition of the role of women. Training, information, education and communication should enable women to participate more actively in managing family resources, including decisions on the size and structure of the family. Family planning was a corner-stone of that process. The entire institutional framework and cultural network must be mobilized at the grass-roots level.

76. UNFPA co-operation with community and women leaders and local non-governmental organizations was a positive step towards providing basic training skills and improving the management of family resources. Her Government looked forward to the Fund's reporting on that issue in 1989. Reference had been made to the low female literacy rate as one of the criteria in the selection of priority countries. That was an important contribution to enhanced gender-specific population-data collection analysis, training, etc. Planners must take women into due consideration both as beneficiaries of and contributors to development. Further statistical training activities with a special socio-cultural approach might be needed.

77. The Fund's involvement in the Global Programme on AIDS was a new challenge, and it was promising that UNFPA was represented in the Programme's headquarters and had formulated the guidelines for the consideration of AIDS issues in mother and child health, health education and training of health workers.

78. Her delegation appreciated the participation of the Fund in the Joint Consultative Group on Policy and other co-ordination forums. But co-ordination must also be developed at the field level. Available manpower resources posed constraints, and the continuation of staff training and development was therefore essential to satisfy the need of the Fund for a genuinely competent staff.

79. The interrelationship between numbers and financial level of population activities in a country and the presence of a UNFPA representative should be looked into. Although welcoming efforts to decentralize, her delegation feared lest creating a specific structure for population work might jeopardize the co-ordination of population issues with other development work for which the UNDP field network already constituted an important infrastructure to be built upon.

80. Although population growth had, in some areas, showed signs of slowing down, the future challenge to the Fund was to address groups much harder to reach than those targeted in the first 20 years of its existence. The development of child survival, women's education, the agricultural economy and smaller urban centres all called for new approaches. Consequently, while her delegation commended the United Nations Population Fund on its work, it emphasized that there was still a long way to go and that the co-operation of all countries was needed.

81. Mr. ZEYTINOGLU (Turkey), having praised the report of the Executive Director for 1987 (DP/1988/32 (Part I) and (Part II)) and the Work Plan for 1989-1992 (DP/1988/34) for their neutrality, innovative spirit and flexibility, said that the report reflected the particular importance that the developing countries attached to UNFPA programmes and activities at both national and interregional levels. His Government had taken note of the information provided on activities involving the participation of women in development, problems of youth, international co-operation in the struggle against AIDS, family planning, research, education and multisectoral activities.

82. Although such activities were crucial for developing countries, they could help to bring about definitive solutions to population problems only if national efforts were made, and the beneficiary States must work towards carrying out the UNFPA programmes and projects by encouraging education in family planning and giving priority to problems of youth. If such programmes were to be more beneficial, the international community must also diversify its activities. In that context, his delegation reiterated its support for the new UNFPA strategy as it had been defined at the thirty-eighth session of UNDP.

83. The elements contained in the Work Plan for 1989-1992 (DP/1988/34) were pertinent and realistic, and his Government commended the Executive Director on the annual financial review (DP/1988/40). The explanations contained in the revised estimates for 1988-1989 (DP/1988/39) fully justified the revision. His delegation welcomed the allocations for the sub-Saharan countries and hoped that they would help to solve the great problems facing those countries.

84. Population problems continued to be of great concern to his Government. Despite a drop in the demographic growth rate from 3 per cent in 1965 to a current 2.4 per cent, Turkey still had to make great efforts to find lasting and realistic solutions to those problems. The goal of the new Turkish family planning programme was to reduce the rate of demographic growth to 1.76 per cent by the year 2000. Measures had been taken to introduce family planning services in the most isolated parts of the country. His Government worked closely with various international organizations in that area, including UNFPA, and he took the opportunity to thank UNFPA for the past and current assistance it had given to his country.

85. Ms. STENIUS-MLADENOV (Finland) said that she had been impressed by the realistic approach to the growth of activities and funding shown in the documents prepared by the Executive Director. The periodic report on evaluation (DP/1988/36) enlarged the concept of evaluation to a manifold process of fruitful interaction. Her delegation warmly endorsed the Fund's aim of placing increased emphasis on monitoring and evaluation as an integral part of its programming process and shifting substantive analysis from individual projects to country and intercountry programmes. It was particularly important that the Government, the executing agency and UNFPA should decide jointly on the type and depth of monitoring and evaluation.

86. Her delegation endorsed the plans for an increasing number of internal evaluation exercises in the near future. The work on the guidelines was an ongoing process, changing and developing side by side with the evaluation work actually done, and in that context, training was very important if the results

were to be as reliable as possible. It also noted with satisfaction the paragraph underlining the need to involve national personnel in project formulation and assumed that the same applied to evaluation work.

87. The report on the system of priority countries for population assistance (DP/1988/38) and the criteria for their designation was informative and well-balanced. The suggestions that the proportion of country programme resources to be devoted to priority countries be increased from two thirds to three quarters and concerning the revision of criteria were well supported by facts and by arguments. The division established by the Executive Director, whereby the number of priority countries was increased from 53 to 57 was an appropriate one. The four demographic indicators set up originally in 1977 were still relevant, and particularly the density of the agricultural population on arable land.

88. Her delegation warmly endorsed the suggestion that the criteria be revised to include the female literacy rate, which had proved to be a central factor affecting demographic behaviour. When making use of that criterion, however, it might be difficult to obtain reliable data. Furthermore, her delegation considered that the threshold should be raised to 50 per cent.

89. The set of criteria was still too general and did not allow for differences within countries. A more exact evaluation, however, would have to await the development of better and more complete statistical data that would also allow for finer variations within countries and subgroups.

90. On the whole, the programme guidelines had been functioning well. UNFPA must continue to be flexible in meeting the national needs as perceived by the countries themselves and should devote more staff time accordingly. It might be necessary to provide certain types of assistance for a duration of up to 10 years.

91. Her Government welcomed the satisfactory funding situation, which provided a good basis for future activities. It had increased its own contributions to core funding for three years running. It was gratifying to note that the number of projects directly executed by Governments had risen from 21.8 per cent in 1986 to 23.0 per cent in 1987 and that the number of projects executed by the Fund itself had likewise increased.

92. The ratio of country to intercountry and regional programme had shifted from 29.3 per cent of intercountry programmes in 1986 to 27.7 per cent in 1987. Current emphasis should be more on country-specific programmes, and for that reason, her delegation was rather concerned to find in the Work Plan for 1989-1992 (DP/1988/34) that the regional and interregional programmes would amount to 29.0 per cent of total UNFPA programme resources, an increase upon the 1987 figures. That upward trend of regional programmes was not in line with what her delegation considered to have been the general tenor of the 1987 discussion.

93. Africa would continue to be a focal point for technical assistance in the years to come, and her Government warmly endorsed the priority given to that continent in the country activities for the years 1989-1992. It agreed with the proposals by the Executive Director that the staff be increased by 61, 52 of whom would be stationed in sub-Saharan Africa. That would mean that UNFPA would have representatives in all priority countries there.



94. Her delegation had noted with interest the Executive Director's account of the measures for the realignment of tasks at Headquarters, as implemented in autumn of 1987, the high percentage of women on the UNFPA staff and the trend towards decentralization within the staff, whereby decision-making rights were delegated to senior representatives in the field. Such a trend would decrease the amount of bureaucratic paperwork and allow more time for more important tasks. More responsibility also required more elaborate training, however, and her Government urged the Secretariat to give appropriate attention to that problem.
95. Her delegation supported the country programmes before the Council. The country programmes of Zambia, Viet Nam and Peru had been studied with particular care by the Finnish bilateral authorities.
96. Her Government regretted that the Jansson Report had not been commented upon by the Executive Director in an official document. The problems dealt with in that Report were of importance to UNFPA as well as to other United Nations bodies. The note by the Secretariat showed, however, that UNFPA gave full recognition to the recommendations of the Report, and her delegation was looking forward to a fruitful discussion on the subject during the current session of the Council.
97. Mr. PETRONE (Italy), having thanked the UNFPA secretariat for preparing an abundant documentation, suggested that UNDP should also prepare a single conference room paper containing brief summaries of the documents submitted to the Governing Council.
98. The Executive Director had effectively highlighted the progress made by UNFPA on nearly all fronts in helping the developing countries to address their population issues. She was making important changes in the internal structure and functioning of UNFPA. Though he would reserve his comments on the staffing requirements for the Budgetary and Finance Committee, he noted that the requests were certainly substantial and would require careful examination.
99. UNFPA was, in fact, undergoing an important transition: the former Executive Director had placed the population question at the centre of the development programmes of developing countries and donor countries alike, and the new Executive Director was therefore managing a Fund that had different needs and a slightly different mission; a Fund that had achieved a financial maturity with over \$170 million collected in 1988. In that perspective, the main problem was for the Fund to improve the quality and effectiveness of its activities which, in his delegation's view, should be judged by two standards: UNFPA's actual contribution to building up the capability of national Governments to manage population problems and its ability to ensure that population assistance was not undertaken in isolation but was part and parcel of the development policies and programmes of the United Nations development system.
100. His Government, which was a strong supporter of the Fund, expected to be able to increase its support in the future, but that was conditional on the effectiveness of the UNFPA programme, and the effectiveness of a Fund of that size could be maintained only through greater cohesion, specifically through joint programming and improved co-ordination with the other branches of the

United Nations development system. UNFPA's response to General Assembly resolution 42/196 was thus of great importance, and his delegation would observe very carefully in the coming months the quality and promptness of UNFPA's response to that resolution and to the recommendations of the Jansson Report.

101. Although agreement had been reached on a more systematic integration of the UNFPA programme in the country programming process of UNDP, and that was indeed important, the programming process had been unable to ensure the necessary co-ordination of United Nations development work. Resolution 42/196 had thus set in motion a process which would result in a thorough revision of the country programming process and he asked the Executive Director for her ideas on reforming that process so as to make it a more effective tool for the co-ordination and integration of development programmes.

Introduction and consideration of the periodic report on evaluation  
(DP/1988/36)

102. Mr. KUNUGI (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund) said that, during the previous year, guidelines had been prepared on support to AIDS programmes, while other guidelines relating to women's concerns had been updated. A set of guidelines on migration and population redistribution had been finalized and others dealing with staff training and development and with Government execution were being prepared. The development of policy guidelines on population, resources and the environment were also being considered.

103. UNFPA shared the concern of all health-related agencies regarding the world-wide AIDS pandemic. It had therefore sought to identify ways in which it could contribute, in close co-ordination with WHO and other involved agencies, to the eventual triumph over that threat to human life, health and welfare. It had issued guidelines for its support to activities aimed at combating AIDS, declaring its readiness to incorporate AIDS material into the types of informational/educational activities supported by the Fund, including, among others, population or sex education programmes for in-school and out-of-school populations, as well as education for mother/child health and for family planning at clinics and service centres.

104. In addition, the Fund would encourage training of health personnel to ensure hygienic delivery of those family-planning methods (injectibles, IUDs, sterilization, implants) which under non-hygienic conditions might result in transmission of the virus, as well as the provision of appropriate technology, such as syringes that self-destructed after first use. It would also be open to efforts to increase supply and utilization of contraceptive methods, such as the condom and spermicides, which might be shown to combat the spread of AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases. Finally it would support research on the demographic impact of AIDS, operational research on AIDS education and biomedical research on the interaction between contraceptive methods and the transmission of AIDS.

105. Activities undertaken as part of UNFPA Implementation Strategy on Women, Population and Development included the review and revision of the Fund's sectoral policies, programme guidelines and programming procedures to ensure that gender considerations became an integral part of all programmes and projects. Furthermore, in response to inquiries from UNFPA field officers,

the 1980 Guidelines on the Fund's Policies and Programmes in the field of Women, Population and Development had been updated to focus specifically on one aspect of the overall Implementation Strategy concerning special projects and project components designed specifically to benefit women in the context of population and development activities.

106. UNFPA had recently completed its policy guidelines on support for activities related to migration and population redistribution, including rural-to-urban migration and socio-economic environment questions associated with it. In view of its limited mandate in that area, the Fund's support would be restricted to data collection, policy analysis, formulation of policies, and training and institutional development.

107. Drawing attention to the periodic report on evaluation (DP/1988/36), he stressed its response to two requests from the Governing Council: the provision of periodic reports on the evaluation activities of the Fund, as requested by Governing Council decision 82/20, and the provision of information on the finalization and initial implementation of the system for feedback and use of evaluation results, as requested by Governing Council decision 87/30.

108. The report on evaluation showed that UNFPA had established a comprehensive system for monitoring and evaluation which had been patterned as far as possible on that of UNDP. In particular, emphasis was being placed on internal evaluation, which had become a requirement for all projects lasting over a year.

109. In view of the increased number of internal project evaluations, independent, in-depth evaluations could be focused on finding overall lessons to be applied in decision-making regarding policies, strategies and programmes. Comparative and programme evaluations were being undertaken to that end; the results of those undertaken in 1986-1987 were included in the report. The comparative evaluations were currently dealing with the area of population and development planning: a regional study on that subject in Asia and the Pacific had been carried out in 1987; a similar one had been undertaken for sub-Saharan Africa early in 1988 and others for the Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean were planned for the second half of 1988.

110. Country programme evaluations, which would increasingly also replace the needs assessment exercises, were being prepared for Nicaragua, Zimbabwe and Indonesia. Inter-country programmes were also being evaluated. The results of a recent evaluation of the FAO programme would be used in the finalization of the FAO component of the inter-country programme for 1988-1991, which was before the Governing Council. Preparations were also under way for an evaluation of an inter-country non-governmental organization programme, that of the Japanese Organization for International Co-operation in Family Planning (JOICFP).

111. He was pleased to announce that the computerized system for feedback of evaluation lessons had become operational. Information about the system had been disseminated to all UNFPA staff and other parties concerned, and copies were available of a news release on the subject which also provided examples of lessons in the areas of financial management in the African region and training of teachers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

112. Demonstrations of the system had been made to field staff in connection with the UNFPA Global Conference in April, and some requests for print-outs of lessons in specific areas had already been received. The evaluation staff was preparing analyses of the lessons in some selected areas and circulars about them were being given wide distribution. It was hoped that that new data base would be useful in the further development of policies and strategies and in the preparation of new programmes and projects, as well as in efforts to improve UNFPA's technical and administrative capabilities. In order to expand further the usefulness of evaluations, possibilities would be explored of setting up an additional data base dealing with the recommendations of the evaluations and UNFPA's decisions and actions regarding those recommendations.

113. The PRESIDENT suggested that, as well as the introduction to the report on policy guidelines and on evaluation (DP/1988/36), the Council might also wish to hear the introduction to the cluster of items related to programme implementation development (DP/1988/35, DP/1988/38 and DP/1988/34).

114. It was so decided.

115. Ms. SADIK (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund), introducing her report on the programming experience of the Fund in using the existing set of criteria and suggestions for modification of the criteria in the designation of priority countries (DP/1988/38), said that the report, prepared in response to Governing Council decision 83/34 I, paragraph 5, presented UNFPAs programming experience with the system of priority countries in terms of (a) evolution of the system of designating priority countries; (b) analysis of trends in resource allocation to priority and other countries in the various regions during two time-periods: 1976-1981 and 1982-1987; (c) an overview of statistical differences between priority and other countries with regard to programme sectors, functional categories of assistance and the nature of budgetary support; and (d) an assessment of experience with current criteria as well as suggestions regarding additional criteria.

116. The programme experience with the system of priority countries during 1982-1987 had been satisfactory. It had enabled the Fund successfully to devote two thirds of country programming resources to the group of 53 priority countries. It had also helped the Fund to implement the Governing Council's Directives on Programme Priorities. As a result of the concerted efforts of the Fund to give special attention to the particular needs of priority countries, a discernible differential in the nature of UNFPA support to priority and other countries was emerging and, in that regard, the Fund was proposing a set of programme guidelines that would further strengthen the system of priority countries.

117. The question of which criteria to use to designate priority countries was central to the concept of a system of such countries. For the system to remain relevant it was necessary to revise the criteria periodically so as to reflect changes in developing countries with regard to their demographic and economic conditions and their needs for external assistance. In accordance with that general principle, UNFPA was proposing selective revisions to both the criteria and their threshold levels. In particular, it was recommended (a) that the existing criteria of gross reproduction rate, infant mortality rate, agricultural population density on arable land and annual increment to total population be retained; (b) that an additional criterion of female

literacy rate be included among the criteria, as had been suggested by many members at previous sessions of the Council and which had been made possible by a special UNESCO exercise in 1988 to develop uniform data for all developing countries; and (c) that a downward revision be made in the threshold levels of gross reproduction rate from 2.5 to 2.0 and in infant mortality from 160 to 120, and an upward revision in the level of GNP per capita from \$US 500 to \$US 750.

118. Taken together, the proposed criteria reflected the important population problems in developing countries and their critical needs for international multilateral assistance. The revised threshold levels for the gross national product per capita, the infant mortality rate and the gross reproduction rate were in line with the changing levels of demographic and economic conditions that had been experienced in developing countries as a whole.

119. The application of the above criteria to all countries with a per capita gross national product of \$US 750 yielded a group of 57 priority countries representing a net increase of 4 countries as compared with the current 53. That increase was due to a desirable change in the number of priority countries in sub-Saharan Africa from 30 to 32, in Latin America from 2 to 4 and in the Middle East from 5 to 6. It also resulted in a decline in the number of priority countries in Asia from 16 to 15. The new composition further strengthened the global character of the system.

120. The 57 priority countries in the proposed revision accounted for over 70 per cent of the population of developing countries. To ensure that the priority countries received greater assistance than the non-priority countries in both per capita and proportionate terms, the target of allocating two thirds to priority countries had had to be revised to three quarters. Since very large countries were allocated resources on the lowest per capita basis, that revision would greatly benefit the small-to-medium-sized priority countries. By the adoption of the modified target, the proposed 57 priority countries, accounting for over 70 per cent of all developing countries population (3.8 billion), would receive 75 per cent of all UNFPA country programme resources. That compared quite favourably with the UNDP system, by which a group of 65 countries received 80 per cent of all indicative country planning figures. Furthermore, it would be better than the current system of priority countries, whereby 53 priority countries, accounting for over 70 per cent of the population of developing countries, were expected to receive only 67 per cent of country programme resources.

121. Turning to the Work Plan for 1989-1992 and the request for approval authority based on the new income projections (DP/1988/34), she noted that most references by delegations to the Plan so far had been supportive and favourable; she would respond to them in summing up the deliberations on that subject. The Work Plan for 1989-1992 was based on the revised income projections of March 1988. The Fund's income for 1988 was estimated at \$US 176 million instead of the \$US 153.7 million set by the Work Plan submitted to the Council the previous year. Furthermore, based on early indications by several of the major donor countries, the income for 1989 was projected at \$US 190 million instead of the \$US 163 million projected earlier. The anticipated resource situation thus resulted in available programme resources for 1988 of about \$US 160 million, or a programme ceiling of \$US 173.7 million including over-programming, as had already been approved by the Council.

122. The income projections for the years 1990-1992 depended on the projected income for 1989. Taking into account the recent income trend, an average annual increase of UNFPA's income was assumed to be 8 per cent, as described in paragraph 17 and table H of the document.

123. On the basis of those assumptions, the new programmable resources for 1989-1992 were estimated at \$US 664.6 million instead of \$US 502 million anticipated for 1988-1991, excluding operational costs and the additions to the operational reserves totalling \$US 17 million during the work period. The total programme resources for 1989-1992, including possible carry-forwards from 1988 to 1989, would be \$US 580 million, and those resources would be used in accordance with the instructions of the Governing Council. Thus a considerable increase for country activities, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, as compared with actual expenditures of recent years had been proposed.

124. In contrast, the allocations for intercountry activities would amount to \$US 194.4 million, or 28.6 per cent of the total programmable resources for 1989-1992, an average of \$US 48.6 million per annum (Tables I and L).

125. As in the past, she was requesting through the work-plan paper the revised programme approval authority reflecting the latest income projection for the work-plan period of 1989-1992. The level of the approval authority for allocations to be made for the current and future years had been based on the estimated income; however, in accordance with the recommendations of the External Auditors, it was proposing that the level of the programme authority be based on new programmable resources. The new programme approval authority would reflect more realistically and accurately the financial resources available for programming, since it was based on estimated income excluding operational costs and additions to the operational reserves.

126. She requested the Council's approval of the programme ceiling, which was the level of project allocations, including permitted over-programming. Experience had shown that approval of the programme ceiling in June of the current year, e.g., approval for 1988 in June 1988, was too late to maximize resource utilization. She was therefore submitting to the Council a provisional programme ceiling of \$US 179 million for 1989 as well as a revised ceiling of \$US 173.7 million for 1988 (Table M), which replaced the programme approval authority for the first year of the 1989-1992 Work Plan. For the subsequent years, the requested level of approval authority would be set in the declining scale of 75 per cent, 50 per cent and 25 per cent of the new programmable resources for 1990, 1991 and 1992 respectively (Table N). The most important change was in the concept of programmable resources as recommended by the External Auditors and the change to giving an approval authority for 1989 in 1988, to allow for a better utilization of the projected resources.

127. Mr. van ARENDONK (Assistant Executive Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities), introducing the document on status of financial implementation of Governing Council-approved UNFPA country programmes and projects (DP/1988/35), said that all programmes and projects approved by the Governing Council at or before its twenty-eighth session of June 1981 had been completed by the end of 1985. No new country programmes or large projects had been submitted to the Council at its twenty-ninth session.

128. During the five consecutive sessions of the Council, from 1983 to 1987, a total of 62 country programmes had been approved, amounting to \$US 430.3 million. All of those country programmes were proceeding in accordance with their original schedule except those of Bangladesh, Brazil and India, which would be extended by one year. At the end of December 1987, the outstanding commitment of UNFPA to those programmes stood at \$US 281.2 million (Table A). Although the Fund prepared two funding levels (high and low scenarios) for the 38 country programmes approved by the Governing Council in view of the uncertainty of the contribution from a traditionally major donor country, it was able to allocate resources at the higher level, reflecting the higher pledges and the continued depreciation of the value of the United States currency.

129. At the current session of the Council, UNFPA was submitting 16 proposed country programmes for Council approval, all of which were scheduled for completion by the end of 1991 or 1992. Twelve of those country programmes were for priority countries. The total commitment to those country programmes would amount to \$US 82 million. In addition, as requested by the Council at its thirty-fourth session, UNFPA was submitting a comprehensive programme, as contained in DP/1988/37 and Add.1-5, which was composed of regional and interregional activities for the period 1988-1991, totalling \$US 185.2 million. Thus new programme commitments would total \$US 267.2 million, including the over-allocation to be absorbed by the new programmes for Viet Nam and Peru, if approved by the Council.

130. The balance of UNFPA commitments, including the 1988 submission to the Council, would be \$US 548.4 million (Table C), 23.5 per cent of which would be allocated for country activities in the sub-Saharan Africa region, while the Arab States and Europe, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean regions and the intercountry programme would receive 9.6 per cent, 27.0 per cent, 6.1 per cent and 33.7 per cent respectively of the total commitment. As had been reported to the Council, in part through the Work Plan 1989-1992 (DP/1988/34), sufficient resources would be available to honour the total commitment.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

