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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND PART* OF THE 22nd MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Thursday, 16 June 1988, at 3 p.m.

<u>President:</u>	Mr. MANGWAZU	(Malawi)
later:	Mr. LEENSTRA	(Netherlands)

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1. Mr. DE BEER (Netherlands) said that his delegation's support for the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development had been well known since its inception and Africa was also prominent in his Government's bilateral aid programme. He reiterated the importance his Government attached to donor co-ordination. The UNDP round tables and NatCAPs had an important role to play in that regard. However, before any country could be invited to a round table it needed to have its priorities in order, and that was by no means always the case. The Regional Director for Africa had mentioned the possibility of training a core professional staff to act as a "fire brigade" for the planning sections in the various countries. That might not be an ideal solution, in view of the myriad factors influencing policies in the African countries, but it was at least a way of advancing the situation.

2. Much more important was the development of management capabilities in the various countries themselves. In that connection, he mentioned the Special Action Programme for Administration and Management (SAPAM). By its contribution to the Special Trust Fund for that Programme, his Government had already underlined the importance it attached to the matter. Although the SAPAM had not got off to a flying start, the references made by the Regional Director for Africa to Japan and to the management facility gave some reason to hope for its speedy implementation.

3. The Regional Director for Africa had mentioned the need for the training of both professional staff and field staff. His Government had been involved in professional training programmes in Africa for a number of years, and one of its major problems was keeping trained and qualified staff where they were most needed. He would like to hear the views of the Regional Director for Africa on that issue. In that connection, he reiterated his delegation's view that all partners in the process - recipient countries, international organizations and donors - had their own roles to play.

4. A last issue was co-operation with the World Bank and its structural adjustment programmes. He shared the view of the spokesman for the Nordic countries that there was a specific role for UNDP in that field, where it could do much to soften the possible negative effects of the structural adjustment programmes on certain sectors of society.

5. Mr. FRIX (Belgium) said he was grateful to the Regional Director for Africa for his informative statement concerning not only the role of UNDP within UNPAAERD but also the new issues at stake in the framework of the structural adjustment programmes which, in most African countries, were the foundation for development efforts and international aid.

6. The Regional Bureau for Africa had made remarkable efforts in recent years to confront the enormous challenge of the crisis in Africa through country programmes and new initiatives designed to strengthen local capacities for defining priorities as well as by setting up consistent development policies and strengthening the co-ordination of international assistance.

7. The round-table exercises, the NatCAPs, management aid programmes and, more recently, consideration of the social dimensions of structural adjustment programmes all represented substantial and noteworthy efforts that had helped to strengthen the credibility of UNDP within the United Nations system, with respect to international financial institutions such as the World Bank and especially with respect to bilateral aid agencies. He particularly appreciated the intention of UNDP, as expressed by the Regional Director for Africa, to integrate the various new initiatives into the structural adjustment programmes in a consistent way so as to help local Governments become responsible for their own development by mobilizing locally available resources to complement the various types of foreign assistance.

8. For the purpose of integrating those new initiatives into a well-structured process, UNDP should continue to enhance its role and its credibility, in the hope that the means and organization available would prove equal to its ambitions. For that reason, his delegation supported the proposals to strengthen the field offices, both qualitatively and quantitatively, and to strengthen design, analysis and management capacities at Headquarters. It was certain that the effort at integration, synthesis and co-ordination of efforts referred to by the Regional Director for Africa would also require a proportional adaptation of means.

9. UNDP must not only increase its role and its means in the new areas linked to structural adjustment, it must also rationalize its entire structure to avoid fragmentation of roles and initiatives to the detriment of the specialized agencies, which also had a function to fulfil in defining sectoral approaches. In that connection, it would be useful to have a document at the following session of the Council providing a clear view of the structure of the system and of the measures taken to group related initiatives and avoid overlapping of work.

10. Mr. QUIAN Jiadong (China) said that his delegation fully supported UNDP's efforts in Africa, especially in the sub-Saharan region, and its assistance to the African national liberation movements. It was a difficult and long-term task which called for sustained efforts by the international community in

general and UNDP in particular. To enhance the effectiveness of those efforts, the Administrator should help the recipient Governments to improve their co-ordination of external assistance, with due regard for the different situations of the individual countries, and should formulate regionally specific plans of comprehensive development.

11. From his Government's experience in helping poor and backward parts of China, the best way was the "responsibility system", whereby a particular department or sector was made fully responsible for an operation. While the actual Chinese solutions could not, perhaps, be copied elsewhere, the principle to be followed for development projects was that they should be executed in the light of the specific situations of the various regions with a pragmatic approach.

12. Mr. OH (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation set great store by UNDP's role in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and was happy to note that UNDP country and inter-country programmes for Africa in the fourth programming cycle had, for the most part, been formulated with due consideration for the priority areas envisaged in the Programme of Action.

13. He reiterated his delegation's view that the alleviation of persistent and widespread poverty was one of the most urgent tasks and that UNDP's priority programmes and projects in the region should concentrate on that area. In the longer perspective, UNDP's plan to help the recipient countries of the region implement structural adjustments was a commendable one and should be continued in order to expedite stable economic development. He welcomed the Administrator's remark during the high-level segment debate that there would be no conditionality linked to the UNDP plan in that regard.

14. It was also his delegation's view that the role of the private sector in development should be recognized and that ECDC/TCDC activities should be further strengthened. As for the additional resources allocation for the new initiatives, positive consideration should be given to the Administrator's proposal for a management facility (DP/1988/76) in view of its potential benefits for the African countries in the medium-term and long-term perspectives.

15. Mr. KOHLER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, after a careful examination of document DP/1988/24, his delegation had come to the conclusion that UNDP had made a successful attempt to address major obstacles to the further development of the African countries and had done everything possible to assist the African Governments in coping with policy weaknesses and structural problems. Some of the initiatives that his delegation particularly commended were: 1. Activities in the area of aid co-ordination and resource mobilization, particularly as part of the round-table process; 2. NaTCAP exercises, which should be continued, intensified and extended to more countries; and 3. Consultative processes to enhance exchange of information and experience in order to strengthen regional co-operation and existing regional or subregional institutions.

16. His delegation shared the view that UNDP, as the most important multilateral agency for technical co-operation, was in a unique position to increase its involvement so as to remedy the difficult economic situation in Africa. It thus welcomed the response of the Administrator to Governing Council decision 88/9 containing additional proposals for a further increase of future UNDP operations in Africa, as contained in document DP/1988/65. He agreed that UNDP was called upon to assume a larger managerial role in emergency operations and to play a major role as a broker in the development process and as advisor to the various parties, on both the recipient and donor sides. Thus his delegation supported the proposal to strengthen UNDP capacity at both headquarters and in the field.

17. His delegation would like to signal its readiness to endorse further involvement of UNDP in African development and its willingness to make the necessary budgetary provisions, even in an off-budget year, to enable the Administrator to proceed with the implementation without delay. The comprehensive approach reflected in DP/1988/65 was a promising one. In his understanding, full financing for the envisaged programme in Africa had been secured by UNDP. If that was not so, the Administrator might, perhaps, provide some clarification as to which UNDP activities in Africa were covered.

18. Ms. LEE (Observer for Australia) said that her delegation generally supported the role of UNDP in implementing UNPAAERD (DP/1988/24). Her Government recognized the desperate difficulties being faced in Africa and, as a result, it had increased its bilateral programme to \$A 100 million to the nine member countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) over the forthcoming three years. That was the largest percentage increase in Australia's aid programme for the financial year 1987-1988. In addition, some 50 per cent of the Australian contribution to the International Development Association was earmarked for sub-Saharan Africa, and her Government was also providing a considerable amount of emergency assistance to a number of needy countries in Africa.

19. Referring to the Administrator's report on the subject of assistance to national liberation movements (DP/1988/2) she mentioned that her Government also provided development assistance to South Africans and Namibians disadvantaged by apartheid through its Special Assistance Programme for South Africans and Namibians (SAPSAN). The SAPSAN Programme had begun in 1986 and would last five years. It focused on education, training and humanitarian assistance and was directed both to communities inside South Africa and Namibia and to refugees from those countries. The UNDP programme, which was also providing worthwhile assistance in the education, training and health sectors for the victims of apartheid, should be continued.

20. Mr. KALIBWANI (Observer for Uganda) said he was grateful to UNDP and the Regional Director for Africa for their efforts to keep UNPAAERD in view when implementing UNDP programmes in Africa. His delegation was concerned, however, at the fact that UNDP's role in implementing UNPAAERD was merely one of redistributing resources within the existing mechanisms. The African countries had hoped for something more. Most of the activities mentioned in document DP/1988/24 had existed before the adoption of UNPAAERD, which had not brought about any increase in country programmes. That was the true assessment of the UNDP contribution to UNPAAERD.

21. His delegation had expected to hear of new and additional resources mobilized and new initiatives established by UNDP to attract additional resources specifically for the priority areas identified under UNPAAERD. That was why the African planning ministers had supported the establishment of the management facility, in the expectation that it would focus on African recovery. Whether that would be the case remained to be seen. He suggested that UNDP should replace the existing mechanisms by new initiatives to generate new resources. He was convinced that other donors would provide assistance if UNDP made a move in that direction.

22. His delegation unreservedly supported UNDP programmes of assistance to the national liberation movements (DP/1988/2) and also urged UNDP to give full support to Africa's efforts towards regional integration. It appreciated what was being done by UNSO in areas concerned with drought and desertification, but would like to see UNSO move somewhat more rapidly to counteract the risk of desertification in north-eastern Uganda. It was to be hoped that the recent UNSO mission to Uganda would initiate a project to deal effectively with that problem.

23. Mr. ROHNER (Switzerland) said that his delegation largely agreed with the assessment of the situation and of the technical assistance needs of Africa as set forth in the document prepared by the Regional Director for Africa and his staff (DP/1988/24). UNDP should pursue and strengthen its efforts in the areas of round tables, co-ordination and consultation between development partners at the country level. His delegation was pleased to learn that UNDP was to play a more active role in the future in the framework of the consultative groups, in particular by undertaking to present a thorough analysis of the situation and needs with regard to technical co-operation.

24. Concerning NatCAPs, the assessment made in 1987 clearly showed the strengths and weaknesses of the exercises carried out and the questions that remained open. UNDP was consolidating the methodology to be used for its assessments, and he would be interested to learn the result of that consolidation, announced for the end of 1988. It was essential that UNDP should have an instrument that had proved its value before it was applied to a larger number of countries.

25. With regard to the staff reinforcements planned at Headquarters and in the field offices, his delegation was able to agree in principle with the proposals made, although the details would have to be examined by the Budgetary and Finance Committee. He hoped that UNDP would soon be able to find the high-quality staff needed to carry out the important new tasks planned. The focus should be on strengthening the capacities of the beneficiary countries. In that connection, he supported the proposal by the representative of Belgium concerning more systematic association of the sectoral skills of the specialized agencies of the system. He hoped that the mid-term review, to be held at the end of 1988, would take due account of the new needs of the various countries and the necessary adjustments to be made.

26. Mr. PETTIT (United Kingdom) noted that his delegation had given its general support to document DP/1988/65. He expressed appreciation for document DP/1988/49 and its introduction. The fact that the in-house study on UNSO had been shared with the Council was an indication of the Administrator's openness, and it was for the Council to reciprocate with its interest and guidance, coupled with respect for the prerogatives of management.

27. There had been an interesting but rather confused discussion of the role of UNDP in the type of activities covered by the report of the Regional Director for Africa. Regarding the suggestion that UNDP should ask itself whether it was still a neutral organization, the Administrator had made it clear that all of UNDP's activities stemmed from its conventional and traditional role, and the same point had been clearly made in the discussion of the management facility.

28. The paper on the follow-up to UNPAAERD (DP/1988/24) was also a clear example of the foregoing. The African countries and the international community had reached agreement at the United Nations special session on a series of measures for policy reforms, and UNDP action was in response to the developing countries' Governments' own wishes. Donors had made no specific commitment on resources but had been supportive in assistance bilaterally and through the World Bank. Donor support for UNDP was inevitably coloured by the extent to which UNDP could help to achieve those common aims.

29. As to relations with the World Bank, UNDP had never been an agent of the Bank except under special circumstances. However, it was not an adversary of the Bank either nor, as had been suggested, a sort of referee to ensure fair play in negotiations.

30. Concerning the document on assistance to national liberation movements (DP/1988/2), he noted that paragraph 13 mentioned that the Pan Africanist Congress had requested that two of its three project proposals be executed by OPE. He wondered, in that connection, whether there was any special reason why small projects of that sort were not being handled by UNESCO or the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA).

31. Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana) having expressed his appreciation to the Regional Director for Africa and the Director of UNSO for their presentation of the reports on the items under discussion, said that his delegation generally supported the position of the African Group as stated by the representative of Burkina Faso.

32. UNDP efforts to improve and expand the scope of its services and assistance to African countries in support of UNPAAERD were appreciated. However, many of the mechanisms under review had existed before the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action. For the fourth programming cycle, the overall increase in resources allocated to Africa over the previous cycle was 24.7 per cent. Allowing for the increases that would have normally accrued to Africa, UNDP could have done more in terms of resource allocation to help Africa implement the Programme of Action.

33. Reading the report on the role of UNDP in the implementation of UNPAAERD (DP/1988/24), his delegation had been struck by the emphasis placed on the management of structural adjustment programmes. Although assistance in that area was admittedly appropriate, those programmes were of a short-term nature intended to put declining economies on the path of recovery and should find their place in the context of the long-term development programmes. His delegation advocated the maintenance of a balance between short-term

programmes and long-term development needs. It had declared its support for the establishment of a management facility (DP/1988/76) which, it believed, had a potential for assisting the long-term development objectives of the developing countries. The facility should aim at developing indigenous capacity for managing the economy on a sustainable basis.

34. His delegation had also been struck by the number of meetings, conferences and seminars that UNDP had organized or been involved in, many of which had been devoted to the identification or the study of African problems. Such meetings and studies should be kept to a bare minimum, and should have specific action-oriented objectives. For example, a regional seminar on procedures of UNDP programming and implementation, involving national co-ordinators and officials, would go a long way towards improving performance and absorption capacities in the field.

35. In the thematic modalities for implementation of the Programme of Action, (DP/1988/24, section III D), the private sector had been listed as one of the areas in which support was given by UNDP. Ghana had a mixed economy in which the public, private and joint public-private sectors all had a role to play in the development of the country. Assistance to any of those sectors was welcome, but no one sector should be strengthened at the expense of the others.

36. Transport and communications constituted one of the priority sectors of the United Nations Programme of Action. Although UNDP had earmarked \$5 million under the special programme resources to promote activities relating to the transport and communications decade in Africa, no allocations had been made to date, and steps should be taken to rectify that situation.

37. In view of the increased responsibility of the Regional Bureau for Africa, his delegation supported, in principle, the proposals to strengthen it by increasing the number of its staff. However, the actual level of increase should be referred to the Budgetary and Finance Committee for examination.

38. His delegation welcomed UNDP's work in support of the national liberation movements (DP/1988/2) and found that the emphasis placed on education and health needs was appropriate. Given the needs of the national liberation movements, his delegation was concerned about the large carry-over of resources from the third cycle. It hoped that the \$7 million in unprogrammed resources would be programmed and utilized before the end of the fourth cycle, in line with UNDP's commitment to the full delivery of programmes by the end of the fourth cycle. In conclusion, his delegation attached great importance to the work of UNSO and wished to see its existing character and financing maintained.

39. Mr. VENE (France) said that his Government's significant bilateral effort bore witness to the importance it attached to co-operation with Africa, as did the complementarity and trust between the French missions and UNDP representatives in the field. His delegation appreciated the work of the Regional Bureau for Africa, in liaison with the LDC Support and Co-ordination Unit and agreed that they should be strengthened.

40. UNDP's efforts on behalf of Africa had begun before the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly on Africa, and it would be erroneous to say that UNDP had not increased its financing since UNPAAERD was adopted. In fact, there had been increases in 1987 between the third and fourth development cycles, and the improvements brought about by such instruments as the round tables, in which his Government took an active part, and the NatCAPs were well-adapted to the needs expressed.

41. UNDP action in support of the structural adjustment programmes were indispensable, for the purpose of integrating adjustment into a development perspective, which had not hitherto been the case. If adjustment was to be seen as part of the long-term development framework, it was not possible to await its results in order to give new impetus to the development of productive or social sectors or the infrastructure, where delays might prove to be insurmountable.

42. Everything had to be done simultaneously, and that was the role of UNDP, in particular in the area of human resources. Thus, to avoid the marginalization of Africa in the world economy, African producers must be helped to regain their competitiveness with regard to traditional products and develop new channels for their products. The foregoing would assume that substantial progress would be made in the area of regional integration, as the representative of Burkina Faso had stressed.

43. There was an additional scope to the efforts required of UNDP on account of the responsibility given it in 1981 by the General Assembly in connection with the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (SNPA). His delegation hoped that UNDP's experience would provide a major contribution to the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries which was planned for 1990.

44. Mr. LEENSTRA (Netherlands) took the Chair.

45. Mr. CZARKOWSKI (Poland) said his delegation supported the three main groups of programmes: the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, the work of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) and the assistance to national liberation movements. Poland participated in a number of projects under those programmes and continued to develop its bilateral assistance and co-operation with a number of African States, which it intended to expand still further.

46. He congratulated the Administrator on the effective way he was implementing UNPAAERD. The document on the subject (DP/1988/24) indicated that an appropriate link was being established between the continental coherence of the Programme of Action and recognition of the specific characteristics of each African country benefiting from UNDP projects. The medium- and long-term orientation of the Programme of Action was very important, for only such an approach would ensure the achievement of self-sustaining socio-economic growth, with due regard for environmental matters. In particular, he agreed with the speakers who had spoken in favour of special emphasis on the role of women in African development.

47. The programme of work of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) (DP/1988/49) was well conceived, in particular the interrelationship between short-term measures and an effort to create a permanent base for activities to eliminate the consequences of drought and desertification. The success of reforestation, water resources management and soil protection projects in particular had direct relevance to the ability of man to counteract the negative phenomena of nature. An effort should be made to utilize human resources more extensively and to train personnel. His delegation was gratified by the co-operation and interaction between UNDP projects and UNSO activities.

48. Many of Africa's current difficulties had their roots in the colonial past. His delegation therefore supported UNDP assistance to national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (DP/1988/2). The policies of the Government of South Africa, particularly apartheid, must be abandoned if Africa was to reach higher development levels. The UNDP programme in that area contributed to the removal of such discriminatory practices.

49. Mr. NAZARI (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation appreciated the role of UNDP in rendering assistance to the national liberation movements. Years of suppression and the colonial legacy had left the African continent in a state of total devastation. Recovery of the continent required not only a large amount of financial assistance, but a comprehensive plan covering all sectoral areas. In that regard, a concrete human-resources development programme should meet the need of the national liberation movements for better technical know-how. Further attention should be paid, through long-term analysis, to the post-independence era, where the need for independent economic growth implied a need for skilled manpower. An evaluation and analysis of the activities of the programme of assistance would help UNDP to modify implementation modalities and to study the reorientation of the resources allocated for the benefit of the African people.

50. Paragraph 39 of document DP/1988/49 contained a reference to "the Arab Gulf" which was not in keeping with the contents of circular letter 311/1-GEN of the United Nations Secretariat. It was to be hoped that, in all future documents, the original, correct and historically documented name: "the Persian Gulf", would be used.

51. Ms. DOINOVA (Bulgaria) reaffirmed her Government's support for the assistance provided by UNDP to the national liberation movements recognized in its area by the OAU (DP/1988/2). It approved the assistance provided to them for the purposes of training experts and helping them attain a degree of self-reliance in their countries of asylum. The provision of assistance in health care, the production of foodstuffs and other areas was also essential. It recognized the needs and priorities of the national liberation movements, as set out in that document.

52. Mr. ALMIMOUNE (Observer for Niger) said his delegation endorsed the statement made by the representative of Burkina Faso on behalf of the African group. There were two further points that deserved mention. The first concerned anti-locust measures, an area in which UNDP was already active. Steps should be taken to strengthen the intervention capacities of the

countries of northern and western Africa that FAO had qualified as "front-line" countries with regard to locust control. Secondly, the actions of UNSO should be strengthened, in particular with regard to the campaign against desertification, a problem which was of particular importance to his country.

53. Mrs. DJAUGA (Observer for Benin) thanked the Regional Director for Africa and UNDP for their laudable efforts to develop her country's economy. The round tables and sectoral meetings, in particular, facilitated the co-ordination of external aid. As for the NaTCAPs, her country had completed the first phase consisting of a diagnostic study of technical co-operation and the use of national human resources in two areas: economic planning and rural development. Her Government appreciated the report on that first phase and had taken measures to implement the recommendations it contained. It hoped that the first phase would be followed by a second one dealing with other sectors of the economy, especially the structural adjustment programme that was being considered.

54. As for promotion of the private sector, she welcomed UNDP's initiatives in that area but, in view of the risks involved, she would suggest that UNDP strengthen its assistance to the support fund for basic initiatives, which had been successful in her country. That project encouraged development of a participatory and indigenous type by providing direct and sustained support for economic micro-projects initiated by the communities themselves.

55. In conclusion, she proposed that the quality and quantity of the staff of UNDP local offices should be strengthened, that emphasis should be placed on the mobilization of national skills and that there should be more approval of projects by resident representatives so as to reduce the delays in project execution. Regarding the last proposal, action should be focused less on studies and more on concrete operations.

56. Mr. MONTEIRO (Cape Verde) said that some African speakers had stressed the need to increase financial flows in order to make UNPAAERD more viable. His delegation had no doubt concerning UNDP's commitment to UNPAAERD but it was difficult clearly to perceive the results of UNDP's financial commitment as reflected in UNPAAERD. His delegation had always regarded UNPAAERD as part of an agreement between the beneficiary countries and the donors, and, since the former were the more important element in the scheme, it was in that direction that UNDP should make a special effort.

57. He thanked the Director of UNSO for his well-structured report (DP/1988/49). Cape Verde had had a very fruitful experience with UNSO and believed that the need for the Office persisted.

58. His delegation thought many of the measures suggested in the report were interesting and urged UNSO to pursue them. It would also like to see donors contribute mainly to the general resources, since that appeared to present advantages for everyone, particularly as it would render possible the formulation of more comprehensive programmes.

59. Mr. MATSVAYI (Zimbabwe) said that, while everyone appreciated the role played by non-governmental organizations in national development programmes, he would like some explanations with regard to paragraph 51 of document DP/1988/24. His delegation would like to know what mechanisms were used to choose NGOs for national projects, what UNDP's findings were in terms of sub-contracting arrangements, and whether there was a category of NGOs that had a special relationship with UNDP in terms of project implementation.

60. Mr. DAMIBA (Regional Director for Africa) said that the comments that had been made by 29 delegations in the course of a rich and varied debate would all be taken into account for the purpose of making UNDP assistance serve the high priorities of development in Africa.

61. In reply, first of all to the representatives of Cameroon and Zimbabwe, he wished to point out that non-governmental organizations were not executing agencies for the UNDP programme but could be used as sub-contractors in the framework of projects executed by Governments, UNDP executing agencies and OPE. Regarding two further questions by the representative of Cameroon, he said that it would be possible to provide Governments with summary records of co-ordination meetings and that TCDC, to which the highest priority should be given, would be used as much as possible in the framework of projects financed by UNDP.

62. He shared the concern of the representative of the Netherlands concerning the problem of retaining trained personnel at Headquarters and in the field. The brain drain was a problem everywhere, and a possible solution was to offer such skilled staff incentives to remain in their posts.

63. Replying to the representative of the United Kingdom, he said there had been some problems with UNESCO in implementing the project on education in connection with national liberation movements, which was why OPE was handling the project.

64. Replying to the representative of Ghana, he referred to the Associate Administrator's remark that two projects on transport and communications were shortly to be approved.

65. Mr. BRANNER (Director, United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office) said that he had taken note of all the words of appreciation and concern in respect of UNSO and its work. Replying to questions by the representative of Finland and, to a certain extent, the representative of the United States, he said that UNSO saw its job as involving the facilitating of co-ordination rather than co-ordination itself, which was a national responsibility. UNSO also intended to increase its knowledge concerning co-ordination issues between the various agencies involved in anti-desertification and drought relief matters.

66. In answer to a question by the representative of Finland concerning the distribution between co-ordination at Headquarters and at the national level, he said UNSO foresaw engaging in round-table exercises and following them up with sectoral meetings. At the local level, it was important to develop more support for integrated programmes in individual countries, and UNSO was currently involved in such an effort in Mauritania. UNSO had also taken a number of initiatives towards regional organizations.

67. Regarding resources, there seemed to have been a misunderstanding, what he had meant to say was that UNSO would not be able to handle substantially larger resources with its existing staff.

68. In reply to the representative of the United States, he said there were good possibilities for co-operation between UNSO and the Regional Bureau for Africa, as well as with the Arab States. What was aimed at was complementarity, not overlapping, in terms of assistance to the countries concerned.

69. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed that the Drafting Group and the Budgetary and Finance Committee should begin elaboration of the draft decisions on the subjects under review.

70. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 7.50 p.m.