



**Governing Council  
of the  
United Nations  
Development Programme**

Distr.  
GENERAL

DP/1988/SR.33 \*/  
28 July 1988

Original: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thirty-fifth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 24 June 1988, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. MANGWAZU (Malawi)

CONTENTS

Programme implementation (continued)

(b) Special programmes (continued)

(ii) Assistance to the Palestinian people

-----  
This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.6108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

\*/ Re-issued for technical reasons.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (agenda item 4) (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (continued)

(ii) ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (DP/1988/23)

1. Mr. ROTHERMEL (Director, Division for Global and Interregional Projects), introducing the Administrator's report on assistance to the Palestinian people (DP/1988/23), said that the UNDP effort in the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had entered a new phase when the Council had held an emergency discussion at its special February session about the plight of the Palestinian people against a background of unfolding violence. Financial prospects had improved greatly owing to both the Council's decisive action in approving a further funding of \$4 million from UNDP central resources and indications from individual donors, of their intention to provide special financial support in voluntary contributions. Even more important was the wave of solid approval for the expansion and redirection of UNDP's efforts to meet the new circumstances.

2. As stated in the report (DP/1988/23, para. 5), a new roster of projects had been formulated which were responsive to basic development needs as perceived in the new circumstances. Annex I of the report provided descriptions of those projects and, in the course of a subsequent special programming special mission to the area, specific agreements to the project list, subject only to satisfactory completion of the project documents, had been received from all parties.

3. The mission had also been able to confirm that, in spite of interruptions and delays due to unsettled conditions, it was possible to proceed with meaningful development work in the occupied territories. All the interested parties had expressed their wish for the UNDP programme to continue in expanded form. Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report described the further progress which had been made in co-operating with other United Nations organizations over the previous year. That increased collaboration had come about as a result of the management, programming and administrative capacity of UNDP's Office at Jerusalem, which also extended collaboration to non-governmental organizations. UNDP hoped that other interested organizations both inside and outside the United Nations system would make use of the Programme's established presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A recently issued brochure on the Programme had been distributed. In conclusion, he introduced a film which gave a graphic picture of UNDP-supported activities in the occupied territories.

4. A film showing UNDP activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was projected.

5. Miss CHAALAN (Syrian Arab Republic), having paid tribute to UNDP's efforts to provide assistance to the Palestinian people in spite of the Israeli repression of their uprising, which had turned into a people's revolution against long-standing political, economic and social and cultural injustice said that, since the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967, the inhabitants of the Golan Heights, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had had to cope with unprecedented Israeli policies based on the confiscation of land,

the establishment of settlements, the seizure of water resources and the violation of fundamental human rights, including the right to life. Those policies had three objectives: to secure complete hegemony over the economy of the occupied territories and to make that economy dependent on Israel; to prevent any economic or social development process and keep the population of the occupied territories in wretched living conditions; and to further the annexation and gradual Judaization of the occupied territories, and the expulsion and displacement of the indigenous population.

6. The situation was deteriorating daily. Since the occupation, the Zionist authorities had confiscated 52 per cent of the surface area of the West Bank and 42 per cent of the Gaza Strip for the purpose of establishing colonial settlements and implanting an increasing number of Zionists in the occupied territories. From the start of the occupation until the end of 1987, 204 settlements had been established on the West Bank and 33 in the Gaza Strip. Those settlements were inhabited by 86,000 Jewish settlers.

7. The Ministerial Settlement Committee planned to intensify settlement with a view to bringing the number of Zionist settlers to 40 per cent of the total population of the Arab occupied territories by the end of the century. Those settlers constituted another reserve for the Israeli occupying forces and, with their blessing, were practising repression against the Palestinian people. The new settlers were gradually hemming in towns and population centres, in contravention of article 55 of the Hague Convention of 1907 and article 49 of the Geneva Convention of 1949.

8. A recent study by the Special Economic Unit (Palestinian People) of UNCTAD stated that, as a result of the confiscation of land for Judaization and settlement, the proportion of land under cultivation in the West Bank had dropped from 36 per cent in 1966 to 27 per cent in 1985 and in the Gaza Strip from 55 per cent to 28 per cent. Agriculture in the occupied territories was subjected to Israeli market requirements and the authorities imposed severe constraints on the consumption of water for agricultural and industrial purposes and for domestic use. They controlled over 90 per cent of the annual Arab water supply, and intended to pump water from the Bethlehem area to Zionist towns and settlements. As a result, a large number of Palestinian farmers had been forced to become labourers.

9. According to the report by the Special Economic Unit, the industrial sector had stagnated since the start of the occupation and faced difficult circumstances as a result of competition from Israeli industries, which benefited from generous Government subsidies and extensive credit facilities not granted to local Palestinian industries. Israeli factories built near Israeli settlements in the occupied territories were competing with local Palestinian industries, which had become sub-contractors to them.

10. Commerce in the Palestinian territories suffered from an imbalance because the Israeli authorities had imposed full control over trade which they had oriented to serve their own interests.

11. The UNCTAD report further stated that the authorities had transformed the occupied territories into a simple market for the consumption of Israeli goods, making them the second largest market for Israeli products in the world, after the United States. Imports from the Zionist entity constituted 90 per cent of the total imports of the occupied territories.

12. In addition to the Israeli practice of demolishing or closing workshops without justification or on flimsy pretexts, the report stated that the level of Government expenditure in the occupied territories was the lowest in the world, amounting to less than 15 per cent of the GNP of those territories; it was below the minimum required to supply essential services to the population. That low level of expenditure had an adverse effect on economic development, since it limited the capital formation needed for investment as well as the local labour market and the development of employment opportunities.

13. The objective of the Zionist policies was to paralyse the economic development process and to increase the number of unemployed, especially among skilled workers, thereby forcing them to emigrate so as to bring in Jews from all over the world to replace the indigenous population.

14. Her delegation was greatly concerned about the Israeli policies, since those same policies were being applied in Syrian Golan. In 1981, the decision had been taken to annex the Golan Heights through the application of Israeli law and administration, in disregard of international law, particularly the Hague Convention of 1907, and of United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 497, which considered the extension of Israeli jurisdiction as null and void and without legal effect.

15. Her delegation was also deeply concerned over the tragic situation of the peoples of Namibia and southern Africa, who were facing a repression that was the twin of the Israeli repression. The South African and Israeli régimes were very similar; both were vicious colonial régimes with a policy of racial supremacy, arrogance and repression, disregarding fundamental laws and conventions and openly challenging the will of the international community.

16. She shared the concern and regret expressed by the delegation of Ghana on 15 June about the memorandum of understanding with regard to technical co-operation signed by UNDP with the Zionist entity without prior consultation with the African countries, which rejected that agreement and called for its cancellation. She endorsed their request.

17. Finally, she wished to emphasize three points: First, that the flagrant violation of international law and conventions were an open challenge to the international community; secondly, that the deteriorating situation of the Palestinian people required concerted international efforts to provide maximum material and moral assistance in accordance with the priorities set by the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and, thirdly, that any economic and social development process in the occupied territories could not succeed as long as the Israeli military occupation continued.

18. She called for the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right of return, the right of self-determination and the right to establish an independent State on their national soil.

19. Mr. ABDEL-NASSER (Observer for Egypt), having noted UNDP's efforts to encourage job creation and to improve industry, agriculture and trade and general health conditions in the villages of the occupied territories, said it was time that greater support was given to programmes for productive projects in agriculture, industry and fisheries, as well as infrastructural projects

such as communications. He paid tribute to UNDP officials in the occupied territories, who were working in very difficult conditions, and supported the allocation of about 60 per cent of UNDP activities to the occupied Gaza Strip, considering the deterioration there, which previous assistance programmes by international agencies had not taken into account.

20. The implementation of UNDP programmes could be carried out only with the co-operation of the Palestinian people and in keeping with the methodology they advocated. In that regard, he agreed with paragraph 13 of the report (DP/1988/23) that it was difficult to carry out development programmes in the occupied territories because the inhabitants were not represented and could not be consulted. He expressed concern at the paucity of UNDP resources for the occupied territories, and appealed to the international community for supplementary funds for programmes of assistance to the Palestinian people by international institutions. His Government had not hesitated to supply moral and material assistance despite his country's own economic difficulties.

21. The achievement of integrated economic and social development could only be brought about by a just solution that brought self-determination and restored the Palestinian people's sovereignty over its own resources.

22. Mr. MAHMOOD (Observer for Iraq) expressed his delegation's gratitude for UNDP's efforts to assist the Palestinian people, who were exposed to wide-ranging brutal repression and to a policy of settlement by the Israeli authorities. Those repressive policies violated fundamental human rights and international law as laid down in the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. They were aimed at hampering the social and economic development of the occupied territories and maintaining the Palestinian population in a backward state, making the economy dependent on the Israeli economy and displacing and expelling the indigenous population.

23. He agreed with the report that the events in the occupied territories often required more modification of UNDP programming cycles, more long-term planning and more co-operation with the parties concerned, especially the inhabitants. He stressed the importance of technical training and economic development; the industrial and commercial sector in the occupied territories was facing grave problems and UNDP could help to promote its role. The objective of the report had been to find out what the economic development had been in the occupied territories since 1967 and to supply the necessary data to crystallize policies to pave the way for the Palestinian people to manage its own economic and commercial affairs. The report should therefore take into consideration the practical and operational dimensions necessary for development.

24. He stressed that economic and social development could not be a reality while Israeli military occupation continued, and called for a complete withdrawal of all Israeli military forces. The deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories required the international community to provide maximum assistance to remove the injustice which the Palestinian people was enduring.

25. Mr. OGAWA (Japan), having commended UNDP's activities in extending assistance to the Palestinian people under the very difficult circumstances prevailing in the occupied territories, said he welcomed the fact that UNDP was currently placing more emphasis on basic economic development and hoped

that specific projects would be formulated and implemented with a view to achieving long-term economic development for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In that connection, he was encouraged by the specific reference in DP/1988/23, annex I to projects planned for implementation during the fourth programming cycle.

26. With the passage of the fiscal 1988 budget in April, his Government had committed \$US 1 million to the UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People in recognition of the increased funding needs and as a concrete expression of its support for UNDP activities in the occupied territories. He hoped that the Programme would receive further and broader support from the international community.

27. Mr. NAZARI (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran), having reiterated his Government's support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people against Zionist occupation and paid tribute to the martyrs of the Palestine revolution, said that the Administrator's report (DP/1988/23) was overshadowed by the continued repression of the Palestinians by the occupying authorities, which had had negative effects on the operation of UNDP projects. His delegation expressed its appreciation to the Administrator and his field staff for the work they had carried out under such difficult conditions.

28. With regard to project programming, his delegation approved the emphasis placed on the health sector, but infrastructural projects should receive more attention. Concerning the programme of assistance, a long-term development policy for the distribution of allocations to different subsectors had still to be worked out. Self-sufficiency could be better attained through small-scale industries and handicrafts than through emphasis on commercial centres. Of pivotal importance for any development policy, self-sufficiency should be geared towards achieving an independent economy for the Palestinian people in accordance with its own wishes. In that context, his delegation welcomed the commitment reflected in other UNDP project activities.

29. Mr. ELFORGANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said his delegation welcomed UNDP efforts to help alleviate the plight of the Arab Palestinian people, which had been suffering under occupation since 1948. The Palestinians' land had been occupied by a gang whose philosophy the General Assembly had recognized as a form of racism. His Government urged all countries to help the Palestinian people.

30. Mr. LI Yang (China) said he endorsed UNDP assistance to the Palestinian people and hoped that its efforts would continue. His Government had always supported the national liberation movement of the Palestinian people and would continue to do so in the future.

31. Ms. ALONSO FRAYLE (Spain) said that her delegation commended the Administrator and, in particular, the field staff for its dedication in the face of a deteriorating situation. Her Government had endorsed the allocation of an additional \$US 4 million to the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People and noted with satisfaction that it had had a positive effect.

32. With regard to the Administrator's proposal to modify UNDP's future scope and role, there were three key points to be borne in mind: consultations must be pursued on a regular basis with all the parties concerned, particular attention being paid to the needs and priorities of the recipients themselves; emphasis must be placed upon planning and selecting projects with the widest possible scope, such as those directed towards creating employment and reinforcing the basic productive infrastructure of the population affected; and additional project assistance must be stepped up as much as possible by attracting resources from outside UNDP.

33. Her delegation reiterated its support for UNDP's role and activities in the occupied territories and hoped that other organizations in the United Nations system would respond positively to the assistance UNDP had offered them with their own projects. That would enhance the level and the quality of the assistance given to the Palestinian people.

34. Ms. DOINOVA (Bulgaria) said she joined other delegations in welcoming United Nations support for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza. Her delegation noted with satisfaction that, despite enormous difficulties, the implementation of the Programme of Assistance and of individual projects was proceeding well. The Programme had acquired a leading role in the efforts aimed at improving the economic and social development of those territories. Her Government hoped that all assistance, including the additional allocation of \$US 4 million, would be aimed towards improving the economic and social development of the Palestinian people.

35. Mr. MILLO (Observer for Israel) said that he would refrain from reacting to some political statements which had been made to score cheap points against his country, because they did not deserve any reply. Repetition did not, turn lies into truth.

36. Over the last few years, Israel had been consistently calling upon various United Nations organs to put their resources at the disposal of UNDP, which would then be in a better position to help raise the standard of living and services of the Arab population in the territories. That call coincided with Israel's policy, which had not been weakened by recent events. Its commitment to encouraging investments and material assistance for the welfare of the inhabitants remained valid as before, but plans of such purpose and nature ought to be co-ordinated with the authorities.

37. Co-operation between UNDP and his Government was good and constructive. With the limited resources at its disposal, Israel was unable by itself to solve the economic problems of the territories. In the 1987 budget, the civil administration had allocated some \$US 130 million for further development projects in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district. More funds were obviously needed.

38. More than 30 development projects were already helping the population to achieve a more acceptable standard of living, and as indicated in the report of the Administrator (DP/1988/23), additional funds were necessary to implement further projects which had been approved in principle. International support was therefore essential.

39. Mr. ALI OSMAN (Sudan) said that his Government endorsed the Administrator's report (DP/1988/23) and called for greater efforts to help face up to the evolving situation in Gaza and the West Bank. New projects were needed in the areas of health, education and water resources. UNDP should encourage investments in the occupied territories to help strengthen the economy.

40. Sudan appealed to all peace-loving forces to give moral and material support to the heroic Palestinian people in its uprising against Israel's occupation forces. The Palestinian people must be given assistance so that it could establish its own State and achieve self-determination under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole legitimate representative.

41. Mr. DMOWSKI (Poland), having stressed the importance and timeliness of the assistance provided to the Palestinian people, said that his Government was in favour of stepping up UNDP involvement in such assistance.

42. After several years of restrained project activity, the Programme of Assistance had recently become a leading element in the economic and social development efforts in the occupied territories.

43. In view of the difficult conditions of project execution, his delegation paid particular tribute to the dedication of UNDP's staff, whose work constituted a major element in the successful efforts to maintain the Programme's momentum. His Government welcomed the new resources earmarked in the current cycle for the Palestinian people, and hoped that more funds would be allocated in the future.

44. Mr. SKLIAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his Government attached great importance to the question of assistance to the Palestinian people. Effective measures must be taken to enhance UNDP support in that area. The efforts made by the Administrator to reactivate UNDP assistance projects deserved positive support. However, the sums required for stepping up measures exceeded the amounts available, and his delegation was concerned about the financing of such efforts.

45. Unless and until Israel ended its occupation of the Arab occupied territories and its aggressive policy against the Palestinian people, international assistance would not be able to overcome the obstacles to improving economic development in that area. His Government reiterated its support for the development programme to assist the liberation movement of the Arab people of Palestine. UNDP assistance must be stepped up through special resources not allocated to IPFs. Such assistance should not be linked to bilateral contributions.

46. Mrs. BEN AJMIA (Observer for Tunisia) said that her delegation welcomed UNDP's efforts to help secure a reasonable standard of living for the Palestinian people. In view of the conditions in which the Palestinian people lived, the low level of project financing was regrettable. Recent events had created an atmosphere of insecurity that presented obstacles to carrying out large-scale projects.

47. Her Government supported the UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People and hoped that it would be enlarged. She paid tribute to the countries that had contributed to the Programme.

48. Mr. COKER (United States of America) said that his Government noted with satisfaction that UNDP's role in the occupied territories had changed and that it had undertaken a longer-range planning process in consultation with the parties directly concerned. His Government supported UNDP's Programme in the West Bank and Gaza and was committed to improving the quality of life of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. It endorsed UNDP's intention to provide a wider range of project activities, to increase emphasis on basic development projects, and to provide a structure for easing the incorporation of external inputs and greater reliance on local assessment of needs.

49. His Government had increased its own bilateral assistance to the occupied territories, both directly and through Jordan's economic development project for the occupied territories. In 1987, its assistance to the Palestinian people had amounted to \$US 22.5 million.

50. Mr. SCHMIDT (German Democratic Republic) said that his Government had constantly favoured all measures designed to assist the Palestinian people. In that spirit, it supported the views expressed and measures provided for in the Administrator's report (DP/1988/23).

51. Mr. PETRONE (Italy) said that, at the special session of the Governing Council in February 1988, his delegation had stressed that the \$US 4 million earmarked for special assistance should not be tied to conditions of matching funds from bilateral donors.

52. His Government supported the initiatives undertaken by UNRWA to facilitate the economic development of the area. It gave priority to labour-intensive projects to improve the employment situation. It was financing, at the cost of \$US 4.5 million, the construction of a plant to process citrus products. Work was expected to begin at the end of July 1988. It was also examining a project for a port in Gaza. UNDP had been asked to conduct a feasibility study, and work on that study had begun.

53. In addition, his Government was financing a residential complex for elderly Palestinians, which would include health and child-care facilities. The project was well under way, at a cost of \$US 5 million. Lastly, his Government had decided to contribute \$US 1 million to the special UNDP programme for the Palestinian people.

54. His Government considered that a longer-term course of action required planning in consultation with the Palestinians.

55. His Government noted with satisfaction that UNDP had designed a programme in March 1988 to serve as a framework for the full utilization of the \$US 8 million originally approved by the Council and the \$US 4 million approved in February 1988.

56. Ms. LEE (Observer for Australia) said that her delegation welcomed UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the West Bank and Gaza and commended the growing co-operation between UNDP and other organizations, particularly UNRWA, WHO, ILO and UNFPA. Her Government, which provided assistance primarily through UNRWA and the non-governmental organizations, would encourage longer-range planning by UNDP.

57. In 1987-1988, her Government had made available \$US 1.4 million in assistance to UNRWA: 1.2 million in core funding, including \$500,000 for a school in the West Bank, and \$200,000 in emergency relief.

58. Mr. CHO (Republic of Korea) having commended UNDP's field office for the work it had accomplished under very adverse conditions said that his delegation attached great importance to UNDP's work in helping the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza to attain better living conditions and to build the foundations for sustained economic and social development. UNDP's assistance in creating an infrastructure, underpinning small businesses and providing vocational training was of the utmost significance, and his delegation supported UNDP's initiatives in that direction as contained in the report (DP/1988/23).

59. His Government reaffirmed its full support for UNDP's laudable efforts in its important Programme.

60. Mr. AL-JASSIM (Kuwait) said that his delegation endorsed efforts to create employment for thousands of Palestinians. His Government supported other United Nations programmes and called upon countries not to forget the oppression in the occupied territories. Co-operation must be enhanced with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

61. Mr. SAHLMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his Government, which supported UNDP's Programme of Assistance, provided aid to the Palestinian people both bilaterally and through UNRWA.

62. His delegation wished to stress the usefulness of the office in Jerusalem, which helped to ease the work of development co-operation in that area.

63. Mr. ROTHERMEL (Director, Division for Global and Interregional Projects), stressed his Division's interest in expanding to the fullest extent possible relations with other organizations in the United Nations system in connection with the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People.

64. Regarding consultations with the Palestinian people, elaborate steps had been taken to ensure that the programme, through its Jerusalem office, extensively consulted with Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.

65. He thanked those who had called for increased resources, in particular those Governments that had announced additional contributions or which were considering such moves.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.