



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

Distr.  
GENERAL

DP/1989/SR.11  
8 June 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thirty-sixth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Monday, 5 June 1989, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM

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

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (continued)

(a) REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON 1988 ACTIVITIES (continued) (DP/1989/32 (Part I and Corr. 1, Parts II and III), 33 (Parts I and II))

(b) REPORT ON THE FUND'S WIDE-RANGING REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF ACCUMULATED POPULATION EXPERIENCE (continued) (DP/1989/37)

1. Mr. BIEGMAN (Netherlands) said that UNFPA had been increasingly successful over the years in calling attention to the important issue of population and in securing commitment and resources. The frankness of the Fund's review and assessment of its accumulated experience, as set out in the report of the Executive Director on the policy implications of the findings and conclusions of the Fund's exercise on review and assessment of population programme experience (DP/1989/37), deserved high praise, and usefully placed a wide range of issues in an overall framework.

2. Ninety per cent of the world's population would be born in the third world and many were bound to be poor, undernourished, uneducated and unemployed. Annual population growth rates of 3 per cent or more meant a doubling of a country's population within a single generation, a problem with which Governments of developing countries could not be expected to cope. It was clear that the industrialized nations could not stand back and watch: first, because global population pressure affected rich and poor alike and secondly, because all aid to the third world might ultimately be in vain if the population problem was not tackled.

3. The International Forum on Population in the 21st Century, to be held in the Netherlands in November 1989, would serve an important function in translating the lessons learned into applicable recommendations for the future. Such recommendations would have to recognize the importance of integrating family planning services into a broader context such as primary health care or community development, and of giving women the crucial right to make decisions affecting their lives; as well as the need to involve target groups in educational and information activities, and to have policy-makers make full use of available research data. UNFPA, with its candid self-critical attitude and its dynamism, should be able to guide the Forum to a definition of sound policies and strategies.

4. A large share of the Netherlands's population assistance resources had been channelled through UNFPA, which had proved to be a reliable partner. With assistance from UNFPA, the Netherlands was beginning to plan bilateral co-operation with developing countries.

5. Governments were demonstrating an increased awareness of the need to address population problems - developing countries by starting population programmes and industrialized countries by their willingness to assist them. Demands for UNFPA

(Mr. Biegman, Netherlands)

assistance were therefore rapidly increasing as were donor resources. Thirteen new programmes, about half of them first-time comprehensive country programmes, were currently before the Council, ready to be implemented. Thus the infrastructure of support was gradually expanding. He expressed the hope that the United States, which had always been at the forefront in encouraging multilateralism, would see fit to resume its support for UNFPA in the near future.

6. Among the challenges facing the Fund was the need to match demand and supply in channeling resources and to adjust its system by maintaining a forward-looking management, a well-trained staff that rotated regularly between Headquarters and the field and an office automation commensurate with its increasing responsibilities.

7. Mrs. ALOPAEUS-STÄHL (Sweden) said that the world's population was increasing at an alarming rate on a planet subject to environmental, climatic, economic and social threats that knew no national boundaries. UNFPA was to be congratulated for its two decades of considerable achievement despite the failure of one of the most affluent Member States to carry its share of the burden.

8. The future would be determined by three key issues, population trends, environmental conditions and the role and status of women, and the Fund's mandate was to find ways of having population matters included in integrated decision-making processes. Its limited resources required improved organizational, staff and administrative efficiency. The conclusions drawn in the documentation before the Council regarding the Fund's future work were logical. The lessons learned had resulted in better concordance between the identified policy implications of UNFPA's review and assessment exercise (DP/1989/37), many parts of the work plan for 1990-1993 (DP/1989/34), and the biennial budget estimates for 1990-1991 (DP/1989/41). The Fund must, however, continue to monitor the development of organizational structures and the distribution of authority and staff, whose increased professionalism at the country level was a first priority. Population programmes must also be harmonized with other development activities, and United Nations agencies must collaborate in utilizing common premises and services and maintaining consistent relations with host countries.

9. As it strove to increase awareness, political commitment and professionalism and learning from experience, UNFPA's general goals were to develop comprehensive population policies; decelerate rapid population growth; lower the current levels of infant, child and maternal mortality and improve the role, status and participation of women. Within those four goals, more Fund-specific sub-goals needed to be identified and accepted by the entire Organization, and more mechanisms created for co-operation with others active in the field.

10. With reference to the first goal, since countries bore the main responsibility for their own population policy and plans, the Fund's task was to assist them upon request. The paramount sub-goal there should be to increase needs assessment and feedback to competent authorities, in co-operation with non-governmental organizations in the field.

(Mrs. Alopaeus-Ståhl, Sweden)

11. The deceleration of rapid population growth likewise suggested a range of sub-goals: more censuses, research and interventions concerning reproductive behaviour, improved infrastructure, rural and urban planning, education and information activities, and delivery of family planning services.

12. In its effort to lower mortality rates, UNFPA's sub-goal should be to focus on safe motherhood in collaboration with all parties concerned. With regard to the improvement of the role, status and participation of women, a quantitative sub-goal could be to reach the target female-literacy rate proposed by UNFPA, although in general her delegation objected to the setting of lower targets for women than for men, or targets inconsistent with those set by other United Nations agencies. Another sub-goal must clearly be to involve men in changing the status and role of women for the better. Also, UNFPA should become active in reaching a particularly neglected group, the women in refugee settlements and camps.

13. To underscore its confidence in the Fund, her Government had increased its contribution by 35 per cent, with particular emphasis on UNFPA's programme in Africa, where recovery was dependent on sound population policies and programmes.

14. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said that a solution to the global population explosion - expected to reach 6.2 billion by the end of the century and 8.5 billion by 2025 - was crucial if Governments were to cope with other basic problems and the human race was to achieve sustainable development and prosperity. The population problem was a key element in international development co-operation and should be given high priority in the Fourth International Development Strategy and in the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation. Regrettably, the United Nations, continued to give low priority to the population issue. UNFPA had an important role to play in promoting awareness and providing the funds for population activities.

15. Happily, its income had been steadily increasing, with a number of countries making first-time contributions. In 1988, the largest portion of UNFPA resources had again been allocated to Asia and the Pacific, which accounted for about 60 per cent of the world's population, and more resources were being channeled to Africa where the population problem was becoming acute.

16. In recent years UNFPA had rightly taken up many population-related issues, among them the status of women, AIDS, aging and the environment, and in pursuing them it should co-operate closely with the other United Nations organizations involved. Where the environment was concerned, Japan strongly urged UNFPA to proceed with the formulation and implementation of actual projects and programmes.

17. His delegation welcomed UNFPA's review and assessment exercise, but felt that its report on the matter (DP/1989/37) was not sufficiently detailed and did not provide a clear orientation for future activities.

18. The work plan for 1990-1993 and request for approval authority (DP/1989/34) presented on the whole a realistic projection of new programmable resources and

(Mr. Taniguchi, Japan)

Japan therefore supported the proposals it contained, subject of course to the decisions of the Budgetary and Finance Committee. His delegation was, however, not yet fully persuaded by the reasons put forward for changing the existing system for requesting approval for programme expenditure. It was not convinced that the existing system was the sole cause of delays in programming and inefficient use of resources, and would like further clarification.

19. In the proposed budget (DP/1989/41), the Administration was recommending a substantial increase over the previous biennium. Although the UNFPA programme had indeed expanded steadily, there must be a clear and convincing justification for an increase of that magnitude, which should take into account the future orientation and organizational implications of Fund activities. Japan therefore shared many of the concerns expressed in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (DP/1989/45), particularly regarding the upgrading of posts.

20. Mr. OSUNA (Spain) agreed that population activities must be expanded and that special attention must be given to the relation between such activities and the status of women and the environment. The record level of contributions pledged and unprecedented number of donors to UNFPA in 1988 was encouraging. Spain had worked increasingly with the Fund in recent years and intended to continue to do so, urging other Member States to join in the universal support needed to sustain the level of programming outlined in document DP/1989/32.

21. His Government proposed that a greater percentage of UNFPA resources should be devoted to improving the effectiveness of activities centred on the relationship between population, women and development and their combined impact on the environment. The Executive Director's report and the 1989 State of World Population report underscored the crucial nature of the population problem, on which hinged the future of the planet; the year 2025, the final date for all the UNFPA projections, was only a generation away.

22. It was, his delegation believed, a wise decision to focus on women in analysing the population problem for they held the key to change. Spain fully endorsed the recommendations and the proposed objectives for the year 2000 submitted to the Council.

23. Mr. ZIELÍNSKI (Poland) observed that it was universally recognized that multilateral co-operation in assistance to UNFPA must be expanded to deal with problems such as the population explosion, urbanization, migration, new diseases and the degradation of the environment, all connected with the concept of sustainable development and with economic policies. UNFPA must continue to provide assistance to all regions of the world and expand its contacts with Governments, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

24. The Executive Director's report on the review and assessment exercise (DP/1989/37) would help enhance programme effectiveness at the national and international levels, and mobilize necessary resources. Implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraph 101 of the report would contribute to the

(Mr. Zielinski, Poland)

development of a plan of programmatic action during the 1990s. The findings of the study would not provide ready solutions for all outstanding population issues; they would have to be further developed and, if necessary, modified after discussion in the Governing Council and other international forums.

25. The report of the Executive Director for 1988 (DP/1989/32) provided a complete picture of UNFPA activities in 1988. Poland supported the main priorities of the Fund's activities as well as the vigorous response and effective adjustment to the guidelines and recommendations of the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies. In particular, his delegation was pleased to learn that UNFPA continued to maintain a close operational relationship with UNDP. He commended the 1989 State of World Population report, which focused on the central role of women in ensuring the success of both population and development programmes. Participants in the UNDP seminar on women in development, which had been held recently in Warsaw, had stressed the need to promote effective action to achieve established goals.

26. The Polish Government highly valued its co-operation with UNFPA, and in 1988 had significantly increased its voluntary contribution to the Fund. Poland had been endeavouring to broaden its co-operation through the increased participation of the Government Population Commission. The Commission's reports, which often referred to UNFPA publications and the results of jointly undertaken research and training, helped define Poland's development policy. Poland was interested in increasing the number of UNFPA country projects implemented in Poland, and wished to become more involved in regional (European) and interregional activities.

27. Mr. KELLAND (Observer for Denmark) said that both the Executive Director of the Governing Council and the Administrator of UNDP had emphasized the importance of enhancing national capacity to manage programmes, and his delegation hoped that UNFPA and UNDP would co-operate closely in that area. A related issue was that of co-ordination. A main task of United Nations assistance was to enhance the capacity of developing countries to assume the task of co-ordination by themselves. Unfortunately, that capacity did not always exist, and it was important that the various providers of external assistance in the population field should ensure the greatest possible cohesion of their efforts. As could be seen from paragraphs 76-84 of document DP/1989/37, there was a considerable overlap in activities. It was therefore important to ensure full exchange of information at the field level; otherwise, the cost-effectiveness of the Fund's efforts might be seriously reduced.

28. Assistance in the population field was closely linked with primary health care and other areas of development. It was important to stress without, however, overlooking the role that men should play in family planning, that women were a crucial factor in the success of any population policy, and his delegation strongly recommended that UNFPA co-operate closely with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

29. Reduction of population growth in the 1990s was a prerequisite for achieving sustainable economic growth. The proportion of official development assistance provided directly to population programmes amounted to only 1.5 per cent, which was clearly not enough. A plan of action for the Danish aid programme provided for

(Mr. Kelland, Observer, Denmark)

increased priority to population and family planning assistance, and that had already been reflected in Denmark's increased contributions to the Fund. Denmark had noted with satisfaction that in 1989 contributions to UNFPA had increased by 12.1 per cent over 1987. His delegation encouraged the former largest donor to resume its contributions.

30. His delegation very much welcomed the fact that McKinsey & Co. had been commissioned to report on the organization of the work of UNFPA. The report, entitled "Building a More Effective UNFPA", indicated that the role of the Fund's field offices was not clearly defined and that a conflict existed between headquarters and field workers. Slow headquarters response and drawn-out negotiations between field and programme officers had led to an unsatisfactory situation. His delegation agreed with the report's recommendation that more authority should be delegated to the field and it welcomed the Executive Director's statement that efforts towards greater decentralization were being pursued.

31. Concentrated efforts were needed in order to achieve maximum impact and efficiency. A relatively small programme could not be effective if its efforts were spread over a wide range of activities in many countries. He agreed with the representative of Canada that the number of priority countries should be reduced.

32. Although use of contraceptives had increased dramatically, from 9 per cent in the early 1960s to 49 per cent in 1987, world population was expected to reach six billion in 1998, one year earlier than previously projected. Increased efforts to limit population growth were necessary. Management, promotion of awareness, family planning and continued co-operation with the World Health Organization (WHO) on research and contraceptives were some key areas for action. Although UNFPA had increased its budget more than twentyfold over the past 20 years, its resources remained inadequate in the face of enormous and urgent needs.

33. Mr. SAHLMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that UNFPA had become the leader in multilateral population assistance. However, increased resources were required in order to permit the Fund to respond more adequately to an increasing number of requests for population assistance. His Government therefore repeated its appeal to the former largest donor to reconsider its policy of non-participation in the Fund.

34. The report of the Executive Director on the review and assessment exercise (DP/1989/37) was refreshing in its frankness and clarity. In terms of future programme modifications, the conclusions were logical and their implementation required the dedicated efforts of all participants. His delegation fully supported the Executive Director's recommendations.

35. According to the report of the Executive Director for 1988 (DP/1989/32), the Fund had worked hard to implement the strategy for sub-Saharan Africa and, through assistance in the areas of data collection and information, education and communication, had provided the basis for service-delivery programmes. Also noteworthy were the Fund's efforts to improve the logistics of contraceptives.

(Mr. Sahlmann, Federal Republic of Germany)

36. It was widely accepted that improvement of the status of women was crucial in determining the success or failure of population programmes. However, family planning activities could not succeed without the co-operation of men, who in many countries set the standards for the behavioural attitudes of women. His delegation believed that more efforts were required to involve men in family planning activities.

37. Joint inter-agency programming at the country level was a positive development and should be continued. The logical consequence of the Fund's policy of advocating the integration of population issues in development planning would be to convince UNDP to go along with joint programming and to go a step further in presenting country programmes for the fifth cycle, which included UNDP and UNFPA activities at the country level.

38. The report on development in the Asia and the Pacific region (DP/1989/30) was quite sobering, and his delegation therefore welcomed the study being carried out in order to determine the causes of high fertility rates and poor programme performance, which went beyond the environment of poverty, low priority and the low status of women.

39. His delegation hoped that the documents on UNFPA activities presented a true picture of the Fund. Field trips of members from all regional groups of the Governing Council and independent evaluations were both welcome and necessary, and his delegation commended the Administration for offering such trips.

40. With regard to the financial situation of the Fund, his delegation pointed out that performance in terms of expenditure had increased by 19 per cent, whereas income had increased only by 14.6 per cent, and project allocations had increased by 25.6 per cent. Those were positive developments. On the other hand, the amount of unspent resources at year's end had shown an unwelcomed upward trend for the fourth consecutive year. Those resources were at near record levels. The Federal Republic of Germany would welcome more explanations about the managerial and structural adjustments taken at Headquarters and in the field offices and urged that efforts be continued to increase expenditure without compromising quality and sustainability.

41. Referring to the biennial budget estimates (DP/1989/41), he said that a 35 per cent increase, even without the expenditure for the Management Information System (MIS) and the publications incorporated into the budget, could not be accepted. Many development budgets operated under essentially zero-growth conditions. Maximum efficiency was required. Post reclassification was out of the question if a substantial number of additional posts were also requested. The proposed budget increase resulted in no small part from the Fund's recent reclassification exercise. If the Council approved that reclassification UNFPA would become even more top heavy than it already was.

42. His delegation did not object to the conversion of two temporary posts into established posts and the addition of two established posts for MIS since



(Mr. Sahlmann, Federal Republic of Germany)

electronic data processing would be a factor in the Fund's operations in the future; nor would it object to requests for new posts in the field, provided they were justified. It could also support strengthening the evaluation office. That, however, was as far as it could go.

43. He appreciated the information contained in document DP/1989/39 concerning measures taken to ensure that population, environment and sustainable development were integrated in UNFPA programmes and wondered whether some specific projects could be cited as examples.

44. The report on the status of the strategy for UNFPA assistance to sub-Saharan Africa (DP/1989/38) presented a generally impressive record, given the constraints in terms of past history, weak administration and the socio-economic setting. The progress made by Governments in sub-Saharan Africa in setting up machinery for population policy was due in no small measure to the Fund's activities. The next logical step in programme direction was an overall strengthening of the service delivery system. That seemed necessary in view of the fact that although maternal and child health and family planning received the largest share of allocations, it was still relatively low compared to the overall share in the Fund's total picture.

45. Mr. CALLWAY (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had had some reservations regarding the document containing the biennial budget of UNFPA for 1990-1991 (DP/1989/41). The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) shared the United Kingdom's difficulties, particularly with regard to staffing levels and grades.

46. It was good to see that the Fund's objectives in the first phase of its strategy towards sub-Saharan Africa were being achieved. His delegation would consider ways of improving feedback to the Governing Council in future reports on developments in the Fund's future strategies towards that priority region.

47. The United Kingdom was grateful for the status report on women, population and development (DP/1989/36). His delegation shared Dr. Sadik's conviction that raising the status of women and improving literacy played an important role in encouraging women to control the size of their families. His delegation supported the efforts of UNFPA to get that message across to Governments. However, the goals contained in the report were extremely ambitious.

48. The United Kingdom welcomed the continuing integration of UNFPA AIDS-related activities with existing programmes dealing with maternal and child health and family planning, and population information, education and communication. His delegation looked forward to the report on the study of the demographic consequences of AIDS.

49. The United Kingdom had taken note of what Dr. Sadik had said regarding the convening of a World Population Conference in 1994. However, his delegation believed that a case had not been made for the Conference, particularly in view of financial constraints.

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(Mr. Callway, United Kingdom)

50. The report of the Executive Director on the UNFPA review and assessment exercise (DP/1989/37) failed to prioritize the possible courses of action which had been suggested or to provide a timetable for them. The Fund should be more realistic in terms of what was achievable in the short and medium term. His delegation accepted the future programme goals which had been suggested as an adequate framework for mapping out the action required. However, that would entail expensive improvements in data collection methods.

51. The report failed to distinguish between the different functions and roles of, for example, politicians, policy-makers, planners and parliamentarians in getting the message across to the people and creating more active political support. It was important to think in terms of institutional and human capacities as well as money when considering resource implications. The report made little mention of the influence of absorptive capacity constraints on future expenditure. A distinction should be made between countries which had large population programmes of their own which were financed almost entirely at the national level, and countries which depended largely on external donors for financing.

52. In paragraph 55 of the report, reference had been made to the lack of concern for the role of population in development "within the United Nations system". That was a very important concern, particularly when more than 17 per cent of the Fund's assistance was channelled through that system.

53. His delegation regretted that the paper did not go beyond asking questions with respect to inter-country activities and their cost-effectiveness vis-à-vis bilateral support. Answers were needed, or at least a strategy for finding the answers was required.

54. The report led to the conclusion that UNFPA should be the lead agency in improving co-ordination at the country level. If that was the case, his delegation wondered whether all the ramifications of accepting such a role had been recognized and accepted.

55. Mr. ALOK (India) commended the Executive Director for her report highlighting the seriousness of the population challenges facing the world and outlining a strategic course of action for the 1990s (DP/1989/32 (Part I)). The experience it had gained over the last 20 years made UNFPA uniquely qualified to indicate future directions in the population field and more and more countries were seeking its assistance. He hoped that the international community would be able to assemble sufficient resources to enable UNFPA to meet the ever-increasing needs of developing countries.

56. He agreed with the Executive Director that sustainable development could be achieved only with the full and equal participation of women. The extent to which women were free to make decisions affecting their lives was the key to the future well-being of humankind. He therefore appreciated the specific recommendations and goals contained in the report.

(Mr. Alok, India)

57. Turning to the report on the review and assessment exercise (DP/1989/37), he said that, judging by his country's experience, most of the conclusions and findings of the exercise appeared to be well founded. It would be a mistake to ignore population factors in development planning. The urgency for strengthening population intervention in the decades to come, as underscored in the report, deserved total support and must be an integral part of the international development strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

58. Increasingly, countries were coming to recognize that solutions to the population problem required a spectrum of complementary policies and programmes and to appreciate the close connection that existed, between social development and successful population programmes. Thus, the review and assessment of population programme goals and their complementarity with other social objectives was an important step towards strengthening population programmes in the developing countries.

59. He agreed with the Executive Director's analysis of the elements which needed to be strengthened in national population programmes. The specific measures to achieve that goal would have to be adapted to the socio-cultural and political context of individual countries. In addition to the useful suggestions made in the report concerning the development of a national population programme strategy, there was ample scope for co-operation between national Governments and the international community.

60. The need to improve the quality and efficiency of international co-operation in the population field was just as important as the need to improve the quality and efficiency at the country level. A suitable mechanism should be identified to further strengthen and streamline the contribution of the various actors.

61. The issue of resource mobilization, as raised in the report, was indeed a daunting one. In his view, it deserved separate treatment, and he hoped that it would be taken up at the International Forum on Population in the 21st Century to be held at Amsterdam in November 1989.

62. Mr. SOARES DE LIMA (Brazil) while welcoming the support which his country had been receiving through a UNFPA project, said that implementation of the project required an in-depth evaluation which should also establish a basis for future UNFPA actions.

63. He attached special importance to the Executive Director's proposal concerning a new, more comprehensive and highly integrated approach to programming. That was precisely the approach followed by his Government in the planning process for all technical co-operation received from bilateral and multilateral sources. Brazil's first experiment in joint programming had proved to be very successful. His technical co-operation experts were entirely at the disposal of UNFPA staff for the purpose of discussing the proposal and its implementation.

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64. Mr. NISSEN (Norway) welcomed the 1989 State of World Population report, which examined the various roles of women and their relationship with other aspects of population and development efforts. In his view, UNFPA was in the forefront in the United Nations system in that area. He was pleased to see that, according to the status report on the implementation strategy to strengthen the capacity of the Fund to deal with issues concerning women, population and development (DP/1989/36), progress had been achieved. At the same time, the implementation of the strategy had brought some problems into focus. A more thorough analysis of the causes and ways of addressing those problems was needed. For example, the report had mentioned the difficulty in measuring the results of the implementation of the strategy, and it would be useful if the Executive Director could share some of the Fund's experiences in that regard. He would appreciate hearing more about the situation of the female staff in the Fund with regard to recruitment, career development and committee membership, as well as the efforts of its internal Working Group on Women, Population and Development. The importance of an integrated approach to women's productive and reproductive roles should be stressed. He looked forward to seeing the complete integration of women's concerns into all UNFPA activities, as well as the increased participation of women in the Fund and in projects supported by the Fund.

65. Turning to the report on the status of the implementation of the strategy for assistance to sub-Saharan Africa (DP/1989/38), he said that his country was particularly concerned about development in Africa, especially the balance between population, resources and environment. It was urgent to elaborate comprehensive population policies which could be integrated with social, environmental and economic aspects of development; at the same time, concrete measures relating to population issues should not be delayed. Together with other United Nations organizations, UNFPA should play an active role in promoting political commitment for population activities.

66. The Fund's efforts to promote technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) within the African region should be encouraged. He thought it might be beneficial to promote more extensive technical co-operation between African and Asian or Latin American countries in the population field.

67. On the basis of the progress report on UNFPA programmes and policies aimed at sustainable development (DP/1989/39), he wondered whether the Fund, should formulate and implement a special environmental strategy for sub-Saharan Africa. He fully agreed with the Fund that it was crucial to sensitize government officials, regional advisers and UNFPA field and headquarters staff to environmental factors and concerns, and would closely follow the Fund's progress in that area.

68. The review and assessment exercise was an important step in improving population programmes, not only for UNFPA, but also for other agencies in the field. The present high rates of population growth could not continue. Population growth already compromised many Governments' abilities to provide education, health care and food security for their people. Yet the population issue was not solely

(Mr. Nissen, Norway)

about numbers. Threats to the sustainable use of resources stemmed as much as from unequal access to and use of resources as from the sheer numbers of people. Nor were population growth rates a concern only for those nations with high rates of increase. An additional person in an industrial country consumed far more and placed far greater pressure on natural resources than an additional person in the third world.

69. Regarding population policies and family planning, the report did not discuss sufficiently a number of sensitive questions, including ethical, moral and human rights aspects relating to traditional and modern beliefs and behaviour, research on new contraceptives, abortion and the use of different incentive schemes. He hoped that UNFPA would give those aspects proper consideration in its further work on the review and assessment exercise.

70. In the planning of population activities, it was important to stimulate modalities which in the long run would make the developing countries independent of further external assistance. The overall economic situation in many developing countries was making it increasingly difficult to commit resources to population and family planning activities; alternative financing options should be discussed.

71. With regard to the division of labour between different donors in the population field, he underscored the points made in the report with regard to the respective roles of the World Bank, the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator, UNFPA and other United Nations agencies.

72. His delegation had received from UNFPA a report by the consultancy firm McKinsey and Company entitled "Building a More Effective UNFPA". Although the document was not before the Council, it deserved a comment. The Executive Director should be commended for commissioning the report and particular attention should be given to the recommendations it contained pertaining to personnel.

73. Mr. SRISUCHART (Thailand) said that his Government had been associated with UNFPA since its inception and had greatly benefitted from its assistance. He requested clarification from the Executive Director regarding an item on page 4 of document DP/1989/33/Part II. Under the sub-heading "Thailand", the document listed "integrated family planning with primary health" as a 1988 project allocation. That had come as a complete surprise to his Government. It had been established, following consultations with the UNFPA field office, that the project was not part of Thailand's country programme, but the result of a direct arrangement between UNFPA headquarters and Thai agencies without any proper notification to, let alone discussion with, the government aid co-ordinator's office.

74. Although he greatly appreciated any assistance in addition to the country programme, he was of the view that the aid co-ordinator's office in a country should be consulted before UNFPA concluded any direct arrangement with substantive agencies in that country.

75. Mr. BRADY (United States of America) said that the report of the Executive Director for 1988 provided a concise summary of the wide range of population activities supported by UNFPA. Together with the report on the recent review and assessment of UNFPA programmes, it helped to draw the lessons of past experience and chart a clear course for the future.

76. Three priorities for action deserved special mention. First, the time had come to begin mobilizing the necessary resources to meet the future demand for family planning. At the beginning of the 1980s, donors, developed country Governments and the private sector had shared almost equally the costs of family planning. Donors could not be expected to continue to shoulder such a large proportion of the costs over the next two decades. The magnitude of the resources needed was obviously far beyond the capacity of any single donor, or perhaps groups of donors, to satisfy. It was therefore critical that host country Governments should commit substantial additional resources to family planning in the 1990s. The private sector must also play a much larger role in the provision of services to its employees and the community at large.

77. Second, more attention needed to be focused on the relationship between population change, the environment and sustainable development. Sustainable development was more likely if population size and growth were in balance with economic growth and the changing productive potential of ecological systems. His Government was committed to promoting greater awareness of the linkages between population and environment.

78. The third priority was the need to improve the role and status of women. Widespread access to family planning was one of the most important interventions available to improve the health and well-being of women. Equally important was the need to improve the status of women socially and economically. Accordingly, efforts to increase women's access to safe, effective contraception must go hand-in-hand with other efforts to empower women, especially through female education and increased labour force participation. UNFPA should be commended for its commitment to those ideals.

79. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and UNFPA had collaborated on many occasions during the previous two decades. Since 1968, his country had contributed \$413 million to the Fund. As the members of the Council were aware, his Government had had serious concerns about certain aspects of the programme and, as a result, had withheld funds from UNFPA for the past three years. It should be recalled, however, that those funds had been reallocated to provide direct support for family planning activities in developing countries. Funds withheld in 1988 had been added to the approximately \$220 million provided to Governments in developing nations and to non-governmental organizations, bringing the total United States contribution to approximately \$245 million in that year.

80. His Government would review UNFPA's activities periodically and discuss its reservations with the appropriate parties. A total of \$19 million had been budgeted in fiscal year 1990 in the event that the problematic features of the Fund's activities could be resolved satisfactorily. In the meantime, USAID looked forward to continuing its long and productive working relationship with UNFPA.

(Mr. Brady, United States)

81. Turning to the report of the Executive Director on the review and assessment exercise (DP/1989/37) he said that his delegation endorsed the goals and planned programme modifications outlined in the report.

82. The Fund should be commended for its perceptive and balanced view of the need for increased attention to population issues and increased allocation of national and international resources. It was clear that dramatic increases in resources for family planning in developing countries would be necessary if declines in fertility were to be achieved.

83. In the discussion of new approaches for strengthening resource mobilization, the report had overlooked the private market place as a source of family planning commodities and services. His delegation therefore urged that the role of the private sector should be given proper emphasis. Experience in that area also demonstrated that government policies were critical in order to stimulate the private sector to increase its role in the provision of family planning services. In its discussions with Governments, UNFPA could help modify those policies to make the role of the private sector in that regard more effective. The Fund's discussion of needed programme modifications could include increasing the range of safe and effective options for contraception and, under its inter-country programmes, more intensive efforts to develop, test and market contraceptives, including male contraceptives.

84. The Fund's priorities might include increasing international capacity in the public and private sector to manufacture and distribute contraceptives to meet rapidly rising demand. Under its new approaches, the Fund might encourage more local initiatives in private sector contraceptive manufacture and marketing as part of the effort to ensure international capacity to meet demand and encourage national population efforts that were financially self-sustaining. In that regard, the Fund should further emphasize sustainability of project design so that in-country projects and non-governmental organizations could move towards complete self-sufficiency to meet the increasing demand for services predicted for the next century.

(c) SPECIAL REPORTS REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL (DP/1989/39 and 40)

85. Mr. KUNUGI (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund), introducing the Progress Report of the Executive Director on UNFPA programmes and projects aimed at sustainable development (DP/1989/39) said that it examined the Fund's efforts over the past few years to incorporate environmental and resource concerns into the population activities which it supported. The Fund's co-operation with various agencies in environmental and sustainable development projects dated back to the 1970s. Since the publication of the 1989 State of World Population report, the Fund's activities in that area had expanded owing to the awareness created by that report of the crucial links between population variables, environmental degradation and sustainable development. In that regard, he was pleased to report that a number of developing countries acting in close co-operation with UNFPA had hosted high-level symposia and workshops for government

(Mr. Kunugi)

officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations to discuss the integration of population, environment and sustainable development as essential components of development policies.

86. In co-operation with UNEP, the World Bank, ILO, UNESCO, FAO, DTCD, DIESA and member organizations of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP), the Fund had also been sponsoring a number of international meetings and study projects on population and environment and the role of women in that regard. In dealing with those complex issues, it was necessary to think globally and act locally in addressing specific situations. For that reason, UNFPA had begun to develop policy guidelines for integrating environmental considerations into its population activities. UNFPA field staff had to be trained in such a way as to ensure that their input reflected the Fund's increasing concern for the environmental and development aspects of population programmes in particular countries.

87. When guidelines were formulated and successfully field-tested, UNFPA country directors and other staff, working closely with national project directors, government officials and workers from non-governmental organizations, would be able to help design and implement the relevant programmes and projects. The Fund would continue its efforts to incorporate population and environment concerns into the international development strategy and other United Nations system-wide medium- and long-term planning processes.

88. Mr. SINGH (Chief of the Information and External Relations Division, United Nations Population Fund), introducing the report of the Executive Director on UNFPA publications and audio-visual productions (DP/1989/40), said that UNFPA publications were based on a comprehensive information strategy devised by the Fund as an integral part of its interregional programme for 1988-1991. UNFPA drew special attention to new, emerging issues in the field of population and provided opportunities for in-depth discussion and clarification of such issues. Its publications also examined current developments in various programme sectors and reported on the success or failure of various strategies and tools. The Fund's publications were unique to its operations and programmes and did not duplicate the efforts of other United Nations agencies. A general readership survey carried out in 1985 had indicated that the newsletter Population had established itself as an invaluable source of news on population and development. More than 80 per cent of the respondents had said that they had used the information contained in it for professional purposes or to inform others. The subjects that most interested readers were basic data collection, the status of women, education, migration and urbanization. Although still incomplete, the results of a readership survey conducted in 1988 generally indicated the continuing usefulness of both the newsletter and the journal Populi.

89. Referring to the UNFPA specialized publications, he said that the 1989 State of World Population report had been issued in May in 22 languages and had received very large coverage in both the print and electronic media around the world. Two other publications, the Inventory of Population Projects in Developing Countries Around the World and the Guide to Sources of International Population Assistance,



(Mr. Singh)

had been favourably received by government planners and policy-makers and some of their views had been quoted in the report. Distribution requirements for UNFPA publications were complex. Publications were disseminated world-wide and often produced in several languages. They were sold or distributed free-of-charge depending on the subscriber and were packaged in single or multiple copies depending on the type of publication and audience.

90. At the end of 1988, the Fund had undertaken a thorough review of its publications distribution system to ensure that each publication was disseminated to appropriate audiences in a timely and cost-effective manner. A new computerized address system was being installed and would speed up the delivery of various publications.

91. On the basis of a careful analysis of the purpose, effectiveness and impact of the various publications supported by UNFPA, the Executive Director had recommended that the cost of the Annual Report, Populi, Population and several other UNFPA publications should be integrated into the APSS budget for 1990-1991. The budgetary implications of that recommendation were contained in document DP/1989/41. With regard to the staffing requirements for publications and media services, he pointed out that the current professional staff comprised a total of three. Many of the publications produced under project budgets had consultancy or temporary assistance components to enable UNFPA to produce those publications. The integration of those publications into the APSS budget would require as a minimum the addition of a professional and general service staff member to the EPMS Branch. At the current time only the Annual Report was financed through the regular budget. The other four publications were funded through project budgets. Those publications were unique because they promoted awareness of population and related development issues and drew public attention to UNFPA activities. The Executive Director had also recommended that the State of World Population report, the Inventory of Population Projects in Developing Countries Around the World, and the Guide to Sources of International Population Assistance should continue to be funded through project budgets. Those publications were extremely effective in achieving their objectives.

92. Dr. SADIK (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund) pointed out, in reply to an observation made by the representative of Belgium, that the three sectors addressed in the review and assessment exercise included all the activities in the population field and an attempt had been made to analyse all experience acquired. The various activities had been consolidated under three main headings for convenience of presentation.

93. The representative of Canada had asked if the General Council was in a position to adopt specific demographic targets and whether such targets could be realistic guideposts for programming decisions. She pointed out that it had not been the Fund's intention to suggest global targets, particularly with regard to population growth rates or population size. UNFPA had considered the projections provided by the United Nations Population Division and commented on the fact that even the low-growth scenario was feasible on the basis of the data gathered on the

(Dr. Sadik)

success of a number of countries which had carried out actions suggested by the Fund. UNFPA sought to ensure that every programme was country-specific in order to meet the particular needs of individual countries. The objective was to enable all developing countries to achieve a balance between population growth and development possibilities. Although the Fund would continue to stress the poorer countries, such as those in sub-Saharan Africa, where growth rates were likely to increase, it should also be kept in mind that problems existed in all the regions of the world. Lastly, she would like to hear the views of delegations on her suggestion concerning a World Population Day.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.