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Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 6 June 1989, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand)

CONTENTS

United Nations Population Fund (continued)

- (a) Report of the Executive Director on 1988 activities (continued)
- (b) Report on the Fund's wide-ranging review and assessment of accumulated population experience (continued)
- (c) Special reports requested by the Council (continued)
- (d) Future programme of the United Nations Population Fund

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 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, and DP/1989/33, 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. BORISSOV (Observer for Bulgaria) said that his country had enjoyed long and fruitful co-operation with UNFPA. In recent years it had developed jointly with the Fund and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development an integrated system of demographic, social and economic statistics for development planning purposes. An international seminar held in Bulgaria in October 1988 had demonstrated the usefulness of the system and the interest of a large number of countries in using it. Bulgaria had agreed to train annually 25 to 30 planners from developing countries each year and, in recognition of the Fund's importance, his country was providing ongoing support to UNFPA activities. The Bulgarian Government was steadily increasing its voluntary contributions to the Fund and would continue its close co-operation with UNFPA for the benefit of all needy countries.
2. Mr. KRSTAJIC (Yugoslavia) expressed satisfaction at the many positive developments in the work of UNFPA. He commended the invaluable services provided by the Fund over the past two decades in helping countries deal with various aspects of population and development problems. Yugoslavia agreed that the goals of the population programme should be broad-based and should constitute an integral part of the international development strategy. His delegation also agreed with those who stressed the importance of the role of women and their participation in population and development activities. He expressed satisfaction at the 1989 State of World Population report and welcomed the proposal to designate 11 July World Population Day.
3. Yugoslavia was grateful for the Fund's assistance and hoped that such assistance would be further strengthened. The Yugoslav Federal Assembly had recently adopted a programme providing a framework for sustainable development in population and family planning. The programme contained a number of nation-wide projects in the field of population growth and development.
4. Mr. ALOM (Observer for Bangladesh) said that the review and assessment report (DP/1989/37) had made it clear that by pursuing an expanded and aggressive population intervention programme global population increase in the next century could be held down by as much as 2 billion. The report had also recommended national and international policies for dealing with the likely constraints that developing countries would face in implementing such a programme. The recommended strategies, however, could have been more useful if the proposed programme activities and priorities at both national and international levels had been more

(Mr. Alom, Observer, Bangladesh)

concrete. Furthermore, the new policy approaches had not considered certain important aspects such as the relationship between population change, the environment and sustainable development; the balance between population size and dispersion and economic equity and growth; or the links between population, manpower development and poverty.

5. Bangladesh's own experience suggested certain programme activities: strengthening of the supply management system; improved programme management and monitoring; increased educational and motivational activities; promotion of family planning services and manpower development; and strengthening of multisectoral programmes with a focus on the rural population.

6. It was obvious that UNFPA would require more funds in order to deal effectively with population issues in the coming decades.

7. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) observed that there were two types of co-ordination, national co-ordination and co-ordination within the United Nations system. The former was the prerogative of Governments themselves, and any attempt to impose co-ordination on national authorities should be firmly resisted since it then became something of a conditionality.

8. In considering co-ordination within the United Nations system itself, the emphasis always seemed to be on avoiding duplication rather than on improving programme delivery. He wondered whether thought had been given to adopting that more positive approach.

9. Dr. PETROS-BARVAZIAN (World Health Organization) expressed satisfaction at the joint work carried out by WHO and UNFPA, particularly with regard to health and training and research projects related to maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP). She welcomed the Fund's strategy plan for the future. Although much progress had been made with regard to some health indicators and programme coverage, gains had often been offset by population growth. Accordingly, WHO would expand its programme in the field of population and seek additional funding for its MCH/FP programmes.

10. UNFPA activities had enabled WHO to focus attention on maternal health and safe motherhood, the question of adolescent reproductive health, women and development and the health rationale of family planning with improved contraceptive methods for use in different socio-cultural settings. In order to achieve the goal of reduced maternal mortality in all countries, family planning programmes must be made available to all couples. The challenge facing the Fund and WHO was the same, regardless of whether it was a question of reducing maternal mortality or providing family planning and fertility programmes.

11. With regard to women and development, she pointed out that reproductive health problems accounted for 25 per cent of the casualties in the field of health. In order to be effective agents of change, women must be healthy. The problems of high fertility, mortality and morbidity among women must be tackled on a long-term

(Dr. Petros-Barvazian)

basis in order to enhance their participation in development. In that regard, it was gratifying to note that the 1989 State of World Population report highlighted the central importance of women in development. With UNFPA support, WHO had set up a programme to promote leadership and participation by women in MCH/FP programmes and mortality reduction programmes. Comprehensive planning with the active involvement of nationals was very much in line with WHO policy and her organization looked forward to working with the Fund at the country level. WHO would continue to work with the Fund in providing professional knowledge and expertise in training, supervision and development services as part of the primary health care strategies. The ongoing co-ordination and co-operation promoted consistent programming and management in a number of areas, such as adolescent reproductive health. She drew attention to various joint activities carried out with UNFPA support, including the WHO programme in research and research training in human reproduction, the development of various kinds of contraceptive guidelines and many others which were very important for the implementation of family planning programmes. Many WHO programmes in one way or another promoted the health and well-being of women and children, but were not considered population activities as such. It was obvious that both WHO and the Fund were very active in pursuing common goals to improve the health of women and children. In that regard, she stressed the need for expanded funding so that the two agencies could continue to work together in order to successfully cope with the challenges facing them in further developing MCH/FP programmes.

12. Dr. SADIK (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund) said that it was especially gratifying to note the support expressed by many delegations for the Fund's review and assessment study, the proposed strategy for population programming and the initiatives under way to further improve the effectiveness of the UNFPA programming process. She noted with particular satisfaction the support expressed for the State of World Population report and the Fund's continued programme efforts in the area of women, population and development. It was heartening to know that the members of the Council shared the view that a crucial part of population programme success and all development efforts was directly linked to the role and status of women.

13. She agreed that literacy goals should be the same for men and women and stressed the need for universal literacy and for school enrolment of girls and boys. The Fund had proposed somewhat more modest goals in an effort to be realistic. She fully agreed with the delegations that had stressed the importance of inter-agency co-ordination and collaboration, particularly with regard to women in the area of population and development. Co-ordination was given special emphasis in all UNFPA programming and was an important component of the Fund's strategy on women. Particular attention was given to co-ordination of UNFPA activities with the other United Nations bodies and the Fund would continue to consider ways to further strengthen that aspect of its programme.

14. She was in full agreement with the view expressed by several delegations that motivating men to share responsibility in family planning and other population matters was of crucial importance. The Fund would try to develop more effective

(Dr. Sadik)

approaches to change men's attitudes and behaviour. UNFPA fully agreed that it was useful to combine health and family planning interventions. MCH and FP were complementary and reinforced one another.

15. A number of delegations had underscored the important role of population factors for all aspects of development and had called for the full integration of population issues into the new international development strategy, the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation and the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. UNFPA was most gratified with that support and hoped that that concern would be voiced consistently in all the preparatory forums in question. Support for population programmes at the international level was all too often interpreted as the responsibility of UNFPA alone. Although the Fund collaborated constructively with the agencies participating in the execution and implementation of the UNFPA programme, much of the United Nations system still tended to undertake population activities only when UNFPA funding was available. In that regard, she was pleased to learn that some organizations were intensifying efforts to include population components in their regular programmes.

16. She underscored the need for stronger advocacy throughout the system on behalf of population issues as an integral and key element of development. The combined inputs of the entire United Nations system were absolutely essential to make population questions an integral and effective part of all development efforts. The Fund would seek to obtain the necessary support from other United Nations bodies. Such support would become systematic only when Governments requested it in the intergovernmental forums governing other parts of the United Nations system.

17. She noted with particular appreciation the many constructive comments and suggestions on the review and assessment study. They would be taken into account in future programming and in reviewing the programme experience. Some delegations had commented on the advocacy role to be played by other development sectors and other bodies on behalf of population. Governments and organizations should play that role in supporting population as an integral and key component of development. A number of delegations had voiced concern about possible duplication of work. In that regard, she emphasized that all UNFPA work was in operational activities. Even the review and assessment study focused solely on programme experience in the population field. Under its mandate, the Fund promoted population activities proposed in international strategies, particularly the World Population Plan of Action. The Fund provided assistance to countries for wide-ranging activities in population, including basic data collection and analysis, utilization of population data and research for policy formulation and development planning. Although UNFPA provided assistance in those fields, it did not have nor did it intend to have in-house capacity to carry out those tasks itself. It should be clearly understood that the Population Data, Policy and Research Branch of UNFPA did exactly the same type of work as the other technical branches, namely it assisted countries in the programming of operational activities. It provided the essential in-house skills needed to appraise, monitor and evaluate projects and programmes dealing with population data collection,

(Dr. Sadik)

research and policy. It assisted in strategy development and the feeding of accumulated programme knowledge into new programme development and helped interpret research findings and apply them to programme activities. The two additional officers requested for that Branch were the minimum necessary to enable the Fund to provide high quality assistance to countries. At the current time, the staff in each of the technical branches were overburdened.

18. The Fund relied for project design and implementation on the technical expertise of the specialized agencies, other United Nations bodies and international and national non-governmental organizations, and would itself continue to focus on programme strategy development and monitoring and evaluation, while the agencies focused on project execution. UNFPA did not do any research.

19. Socio-cultural research was an important means of developing more culturally appropriate and technically effective programme strategies, and the Fund would report to the Council at its next session on ongoing efforts to include such a component systematically in all country programmes. UNFPA was involving local research institutes with an anthropological approach in that effort and relied on the research capacities of local non-governmental organizations in its MCH/FP and its information, education and communication (IEC) projects. The Fund was also in the process of reviewing existing socio-cultural research to determine the kind of research it wished to commission in future.

20. As a funding organization, however, UNFPA did support a broad range of research projects by a host of other organs such as WHO, the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Committee for Contraceptive Research (ICCR), on a spectrum of topics including the social, demographic, economic, cultural, environmental and other aspects of population, contraceptive research and reproductive biology, educational and communication research and the like.

21. On the other hand, UNFPA as an operational agency was required to develop a research agenda based on needs for UNFPA support in developing countries, to apply research findings to its programmes and to help publicize research findings nationally, regionally and globally. The degree of collaboration regarding research between UNFPA and other organizations was very regular and intense. Care was taken to avoid duplication and to ensure that projects complemented each other.

22. Regarding the goals included in the 1989 State of World Population report and in the review and assessment report, delegations had correctly distinguished between goals, which offered a vision for the future, and targets, which were specific aims to be reached within a specified time-frame. The task of translating those goals into programmatic sub-goals must be left to individual countries.

23. While the Fund's goals might appear ambitious at first glance, they were achievable. In just over a decade Colombia, Mexico, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand had reduced their infant mortality rates by about 40 per cent, while

(Dr. Sadik)

Mauritius, El Salvador and Indonesia had improved their female literacy rates by almost 30 per cent. The main point was that goals must be established in terms of their impact and end results, on the basis of regularly monitored population indicators.

24. Many delegations had emphasized the importance of better co-ordination at both the national and international levels. Co-ordination of population activities at the national level was the responsibility of Governments and UNFPA's role was to assist them, in line with the focus on developing self-reliance. Nevertheless, whenever a Government asked for help with the co-ordination itself, and many had done so, the Fund was glad to assist. As to the harmonization of UNFPA country programme cycles with those of UNDP, the Fund had made major efforts to co-ordinate not only with UNDP cycles but most importantly with government cycles, which all agencies should take as the basis for their planning frameworks. She agreed that the Resident Co-ordinators must actively support the population sector and that UNFPA should share UNDP premises and facilities in order to economize.

25. A better system of co-ordination at the international level was, in fact, needed and all the parties concerned, Governments, bilateral and multilateral donors and non-governmental organizations, must be involved. The Fund would, as suggested, consult with them on specific plans for improving co-ordination: initially that would mean drawing up an inventory of existing data banks and other sources of information regarding donor mandates and priorities and lessons learned from country programmes. The results would then be disseminated, and only then would co-ordination of efforts begin. It would obviously be a long-term undertaking.

26. The Fund intended to address the question of the number of priority countries in the interim report that it had been requested to submit to the Council in 1991 on the implementation of the modified criteria, taking into account the findings of the review and assessment exercise. It should be pointed out that the priority country system was designed to concentrate resources in a group of countries with serious population problems.

27. Many speakers had endorsed the need for setting specific targets for increased resource mobilization. Efficient use of existing resources was of course a prerequisite for raising more funds. The returns on investment in population and in women would yield great returns, but only in the long term. The Fund was hoping particularly to receive twentieth-anniversary presents from those countries which could afford them, and felt that that would be a good way for the United States, for instance, to rejoin the list of donors.

28. UNFPA was pleased with the generally positive attitude towards the budget, which was an endorsement of the direction in which the Fund wished to move. It should be emphasized that the proposed budget presented only the Fund's essential, minimum needs and that, unlike many other organizations, it could not call upon outside staff.

(Dr. Sadik)

29. The positive approach to co-ordination referred to by Pakistan had long been one of UNFPA's main concerns. Co-ordination was not an end in itself but a means of enhancing programme delivery.

30. The representative of Bangladesh had made some very country-specific suggestions which should be taken into account when designing individual programmes. They could not, however, be the basis for a global blueprint for action. There was unquestionably a link between poverty and the constraints on programmes, and the Fund would be taking that into consideration.

31. Mr. DONAYRE (Chief of the Technical and Evaluation Division, United Nations Population Fund) said that the Fund financed contraceptive development research programmes at both the intercountry and country levels. For example, it helped to finance the WHO Human Reproduction Programme, and, together with the World Bank and UNDP, was part of that Programme's Standing Committee, a policy advisory body. The Programme was currently being evaluated by a team of external consultants, and it was hoped that the evaluation would trigger renewed interest on the part of donors. UNFPA also helped to finance the International Committee for Contraceptive Research (ICCR), operated by the Population Council and the International Organization of Chemists for Development, which was working on male contraceptive compounds. At the country level, UNFPA funds had been given for biomedical contraceptive research and testing in China, Egypt, Tunisia and other countries and the Fund was involved, in co-operation with the Population Council, in introducing a steroid implant contraceptive in several countries. The Fund was also supporting the work of the Canada-based International Federation on Natural Family Planning Methods that included African countries such as Senegal, Kenya and Zaire, and it was assisting programmes to introduce such methods in countries such as Peru, Zambia, Mauritius and Madagascar.

32. Several delegations had referred to the importance of involving men in family planning programmes. More research was needed, in selected social settings, on male attitudes towards reproductive norms and the use of contraceptives, male/female communication and a possible role for men in actively promoting family planning; and it was urgent to develop, and to inform men of, contraceptive methods for men.

33. The Fund fully agreed that the conclusions of the review and assessment needed further refinement. Some of those conclusions were of immediate operational significance, while others needed to be explored further. The Mexican Government, for instance, had just decided, in the course of a programme planning session with UNFPA, to devise new strategies under its national programme that were based directly on the results of the research and assessment. The Fund intended to continue and to update its review and assessment, probably through study groups and technical or working groups of scientists, policy-makers and programme personnel.



(Mr. Donayre)

34. With reference to AIDS, a member of the Fund's Technical and Evaluation Division served as liaison officer to the WHO Global Programme on AIDS. The focus had been on drafting guidelines on AIDS-related services within MCH/FP programmes. The Fund had participated in several donor meetings to review country medium-term plans with the respective Governments, and had been able to identify areas for UNFPA support within the MCH framework and within the general WHO strategies in the various countries.

35. UNFPA had long been concerned with the interconnection between maternal and child health and family planning. Besides its contributions to specific programmes, the Fund was part of a universal effort to bring to the fore the submerged issues of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality, not least for their significance in fertility reduction in developing countries.

(c) SPECIAL REPORTS REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL (continued) (DP/1989/36 and 38)

36. Mr. N'DIAYE (Chief, Africa Division, United Nations Population Fund), introducing the report on the status of the strategy for UNFPA assistance to sub-Saharan Africa (DP/1989/38), said that sub-Saharan Africa continued to be the only region in which the fertility rate had not begun to decline and in which population growth was expected to increase in coming years. The African region had the world's highest mortality rates and the lowest literacy and income levels. In recent years, an increasing number of African Governments had begun to draw up national population policies and national institutions had been established or strengthened in order to ensure the implementation of such policies. At the national level, there was a growing consensus on the advantages of family planning and birth spacing.

37. Despite those positive developments, considerable efforts must be made to achieve the goals defined in the Fund's strategy. First, the implementation and quality of programmes and projects in Africa must be improved. Secondly, more studies and research on the socio-cultural context must be made in order to facilitate the implementation of population programmes and projects in tradition-bound African societies. Thirdly, co-operation and co-ordination with international and non-governmental organizations should be strengthened and, finally, national capacities must be developed in all programme sectors, since the development of human resources was indispensable to the success of programmes and policies in Africa.

38. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Liberia) said that the document under consideration revealed the invaluable assistance which the Fund had provided to African countries, and the growing efforts of Governments to include a population component in their development strategies. Liberia hoped that the momentum which had begun would be strengthened by additional support and resources, and thanked the Canadian and Scandinavian Governments, as well as other donors, for their support. Liberia was encouraged by the active co-operation with, and support for, regional institutions in Africa, and hoped that academic institutions would also become an integral part of such co-operation. The information, education and communication documentation

(Mr. Fernandez, Liberia)

centre in Nairobi would be more meaningful to Africa if it served all the countries of the continent. Liberia thanked the Canadian Government for supporting the centre, and hoped that other countries would emulate Canada's example. While the strengthening of field offices had contributed to the implementation of the strategy, some approved posts had yet to be filled.

39. His delegation supported the Fund's initiatives and the proposed establishment of a regional Population IEC Clearing-House and regional training centres on population IEC, population and development, and MCH/FP, which would lead to an improvement in socio-cultural data. It was pleased to note that the strategy for Africa was broad and flexible and allowed for a differentiated approach for countries with an underpopulation problem.

40. Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana) said that the significant allocations of resources for the implementation of country programmes on population was commendable. However, the share of project budgets allocated to the personnel component remained high despite the modest reduction recorded in 1988.

41. The greatest obstacle to the implementation of population policies in Africa was the cultural factor. The second obstacle was the high illiteracy rate, particularly among women. In that regard, the attention which had been given to information, education and communication was both important and appropriate. Only when populations understood the economic and social imperatives of family planning and birth spacing would they begin to question certain cultural practices and appreciate the need for a change in attitude. The use of audio-visual facilities was one of the most powerful ways of communicating ideas to a largely illiterate and reluctant population. Mobile vans could be used to reach even the most inaccessible regions.

42. The Fund's MCH/FP programmes had contributed immensely to the reduction of mortality rates in several countries. Those programmes should be expanded, and Ghana hoped that in the coming years UNFPA would be given the necessary support which would enable it to increase the momentum of its population programmes in Africa. In that regard, UNFPA should maintain and expand its support to population institutions established in some African countries, in particular regional population centres. The Fund's assistance to Governments in the collection and collation of demographic data provided countries with the necessary information on which social and economic policies could be based. That important activity should be sustained.

43. Certain regions in Africa were underpopulated while others had high population density. That called for flexibility in the design of population policies. The country programme exercises should therefore be a truly government-administered process. That would enable Governments to take their special needs and concerns into account in determining priorities and allocating resources.

(Mr. Kufuor, Ghana)

44. The Governing Council had approved staffing increases to strengthen the field offices in Africa. At the Council's special session, Ghana had requested that recruitment should be expedited. In accordance with the need to enhance national capacity, consideration should be given to qualified nationals or persons from the region, since they understood best the socio-cultural milieu in which they were expected to operate.

45. Mr. MATSVAYI (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation appreciated the Fund's assistance. However, it should be recognized that the objectives and strategies of population control programmes were the result of close co-operation and consultation between UNFPA and the recipient countries. Such strategies should be implemented through country programmes which reflected countries' priorities and needs.

46. Population control was a sensitive issue and should be viewed as a process rather than as a project. The Fund's understanding of the factors involved had resulted in general acceptance of the population control programme, and many sub-Saharan countries were including population issues as priority areas in their development plans. Nearly all African countries were implementing, in one form or another, population-related programmes under their national plans.

47. In order to ensure a successful population programme, there was a need for closer co-operation among recipient countries in sharing experiences and successes. His delegation believed that the strategy for sub-Saharan Africa provided a sound basis for sharing experience in the areas of information gathering and dissemination, application of population control and methods of involving men in those issues. The increase in the resources available for the programme was an indication of the total commitment of UNFPA and other donors.

48. The countries of sub-Saharan Africa had adopted various practical measures to promote awareness of the importance of population control. Such measures included the strengthening of infrastructures related to population control in order to enhance implementation capacities, the introduction of sex education in schools, awareness campaigns through adult literacy programmes, as well as the strengthening of national institutions to promote the implementation of such programmes. In that regard, there was a need to share experiences through the exchange of policy-makers and experts on population matters. The sharing of ideas and experiences would enhance the spirit of South-South co-operation and technical co-operation among developing countries. The strategy to localize the programme was well supported, and greater attention and resources should be devoted to the training of nationals, who should form the core of a sustainable programme.

49. The question of linkages was crucial, and should include the environment, social services, employment and the general development of the socio-economic environment. There should also be linkage in terms of health facilities and food production and distribution to the population. His delegation was pleased to note that the strategy for sub-Saharan Africa met those concerns.

(Mr. Matsvayi, Zimbabwe)

50. Almost all sub-Saharan States had an organization or ministry responsible for women, thereby ensuring the involvement of women in development issues which directly affected them. However, Zimbabwe believed that such matters should not be gender-oriented since they required collective efforts. A difference in the level of men's and women's understanding of those issues would naturally affect the pace and success of the programme.

51. Mr. POWER (Canada) said that his delegation supported the Fund's comprehensive country programme approach. The integration of the population component into development planning would ultimately assist Governments in rationalizing the development process. His delegation encouraged the Fund and Governments to collaborate closely on that matter in order to ensure that population assumed the appropriate institutional priority in the planning and implementation of development programmes. In addition to providing in-country training for national personnel on population and development, Canada strongly urged the Fund to strengthen the training and research capacity of institutes in the region through linkages and exchanges with institutions possessing expertise in the area of population and development.

52. The report on the status of the strategy for UNFPA assistance to sub-Saharan Africa (DP/1989/38) referred to cultural values and traditional attitudes as impediments to progress in population programmes, especially family planning. The Fund's information, education and communication activities played an important role in overcoming such impediments. It was important to adopt a culturally sensitive approach to such activities, and efforts should be made to increase research and training in that area. The capacity of regional institutions to undertake such research should be strengthened, and new national and regional training programmes should be developed to alleviate existing deficiencies.

53. Canada would welcome information on the Fund's plans to carry out a sub-Saharan survey programme which would generate data on a number of population parameters. While there was a need for additional reliable data, there was also a need to undertake an in-depth analysis of existing data, and his delegation requested further information about how the Fund intended to deal with that matter.

54. Noting that the report mentioned the absence of clearly defined policies at the national level as one of several major barriers to the advancement of women, he said that the issue of the status of women as it related to population in sub-Saharan Africa needed to be addressed in co-operation with Governments. The Fund should continue to promote the issue through its various seminars and training programmes. Governments should make every effort to ensure the participation of women in population planning units within their administrative structures.

55. The Fund's role in co-ordinating population assistance in some countries of the region should be encouraged. Effective co-ordination would help to maximize results by ensuring that resources were directed in the most efficient manner towards agreed priorities.

(Mr. Power, Canada)

56. He would appreciate more information on the experience of UNFPA in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly with regard to lessons learned and the implications of the review and assessment exercise for the Fund's strategy in that region.

57. Mr. CALLWAY (United Kingdom) said that future reports should give greater emphasis to documenting programme outputs, impact and effectiveness. The format of future reports could be improved by including a comprehensive picture of levels of resources, rates of allocation and types of assistance, cross-referenced by country and programme element and presented in tabular form. Greater detail on the activities undertaken under the auspices of the UNFPA regional programmes, and the results obtained, would also be useful. There should also be an indication for each country in the region of the share of total donor assistance which UNFPA was providing.

58. Ms. MAGUIRE (United States of America) commended UNFPA on its progress towards establishing country programmes in sub-Saharan Africa, and noted with satisfaction the Fund's role in assisting countries to adopt population policies. The Fund continued to play a critical role in supporting awareness-raising, policy formulation and implementation activities, and in strengthening the institutions responsible for population policy. Its support of data collection activities helped to ensure the availability of reliable demographic and socio-economic data.

59. She congratulated the Fund on its efforts to strengthen field operations, and to improve donor co-ordination for population activities in the region. The role of the Fund in the Inter-agency Committee on Census Co-ordination in sub-Saharan Africa provided a successful model for inter-agency collaboration. She noted with satisfaction that UNFPA had collaborated with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support local costs for a demographic and health survey in Ghana, and hoped that such co-financing could be extended to other sub-Saharan African countries.

60. Concerning the Fund's strategy for the region, she asked what was being done to stimulate the involvement of the private sector in the provision of family planning services and what was being done or planned in the area of commodity assistance. UNFPA should devote more resources to contraceptive commodities and should consider the private sector when planning any local manufacturing initiatives.

61. A new USAID-supported project to expand family planning service delivery in sub-Saharan Africa would begin in October 1989. It was anticipated that over the five years of the project, 40 to 50 large service delivery projects would become operational in the region.

62. Mr. ZUNNI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that he appreciated the efforts made by UNFPA to promote assistance to African Governments and the initiatives taken by the African countries themselves to solve their population problems. His country had made great progress in that area and had provided generous assistance to many others. Noting that, although the Governing Council had approved 30 country programmes since the adoption of the strategy for UNFPA assistance to southern Africa, population problems in the African region appeared to be on the increase, he said that we would like to know what factors had contributed to those problems. The international community must make greater efforts to help those countries by approving the programmes currently before the Council.

63. Mr. N'DIAYE (Chief of the Africa Division) (UNFPA) took note of the suggestions made by the representative of the United Kingdom.

64. Concerning the questions raised by the representatives of Liberia and Ghana with regard to the recruitment of staff members in the field, he said that UNFPA had been actively recruiting country directors, but had encountered difficulties in finding candidates with the necessary qualifications. Nevertheless, it was expected that the two remaining vacant posts would be filled by the end of 1989.

65. Replying to the question from the representative of Ghana, he said that the Fund had made progress towards expanding MCH/FP services in the region by starting a limited coverage programme which would be expanded in due course.

66. With regard to the issue of systematic data collection, to which the representatives of Ghana and Canada had referred, documentation had been prepared and a meeting would be held by the end of 1989 with the participation of international and African specialists in the field. In view of the large number of interventions taking place in the African region, the sub-Saharan Africa Survey programme was timely. It was necessary to concentrate on those countries in which surveys had not been conducted in order to develop their data collection capacities.

67. As to the request made by the representative of Canada for more information on the Fund's experiences in Africa, the strategy applied in 1987 had been based on lessons learned, making it unnecessary to include that topic in the report. Furthermore, it was difficult to summarize experiences after only two years; the report to be submitted in two years' time would be broader in scope.

68. Replying to the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, he said that resources alone were not the answer to population problems, particularly in Africa, where traditions were so deep-rooted, and where the high fertility rate was due to the high infant and overall mortality rates.

69. Turning to the question of future plans for commodity assistance, to which the representative of the United States had referred, he said that it would be appropriate to begin now to collaborate with private entities in the manufacture of contraceptive commodities, inasmuch as two or three African countries had expressed interest in becoming involved in such initiatives.

70. Ms. HEKMATI (Chief of the Special Unit for Women, Population and Development) (UNFPA), introducing document DP/1989/36 concerning the status of the implementation strategy to strengthen the capacity of the Fund to deal with issues concerning women, population and development, reviewed the history of efforts made within UNFPA to provide for the participation of women and ensure that they benefited from all programme activities. She was pleased to inform the Governing Council that all the activities included in the first two years of the strategy's four-year work plan (1987-1990) had been completed, the only exception being the development of a project information system which would be part of the new UNFPA information management system.

71. She endorsed the comments made during the debate concerning the importance of working with other United Nations agencies. Inasmuch as women-oriented activities cut across many programming sectors, and the resources devoted to them were still limited, there was a need for concerted efforts. Such co-operation would also be helpful to the national organizations responsible for improving the status of women.

72. The reports which had been presented showed that all UNFPA staff were paying due attention to the status of women. She agreed with the comments made by the representative of Finland concerning the role of women in development. A central element of the Fund's staff training programme was the concept that women were already making numerous contributions to development in their own countries, and that there was a need to include that factor in development planning. The best way to change attitudes was to demonstrate in practice that programme objectives could be met more successfully if women's concerns were taken into account.

73. In reply to the question raised by the representative of Norway concerning personnel practices, she said that the Executive Director had proposed to establish a sub-committee of the Working Group on Women, Population and Development to examine all personnel policies and procedures, including recruitment and committee membership, and to make recommendations in the event that any unintentional discrimination came to light.

74. On the basis of the Fund's effort to decentralize all activities, her unit would concentrate more efforts at the national level, work more closely with field representatives and ensure that the policies and capacities of national Governments were respected and utilized.

75. She would appreciate guidance from the Governing Council on directions for future activities.

(d) FUTURE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (DP/1989/34)

76. Mr. VAN ARENDONK (Assistant Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund), introducing the report of the Executive Director on the work plan for 1990-1993 and request for approval authority (DP/1989/34), said that it examined the utilization of programme resources in 1988 using three different quantitative measures: project expenditure rate, resource utilization rate and programme

(Mr. Van Arendonk)

resource delivery rate. The total new programmable resources were estimated to be \$709.4 million for the period 1990-1993. However, the total programmable resources, including the partial use of carry-forwards of resources from 1989 to 1990, were estimated to be \$726.3 million. In contrast, the total programmable resources estimated for 1989-1990 as submitted to the Governing Council were \$680 million.

77. UNFPA proposed to increase the resources for country activities to 73.3 per cent of the total programmable resources for 1990-1993. Regional and interregional activities would account for 15 per cent and 11.7 per cent, respectively, for the 1990-1993 period. The Fund proposed to increase its support to sub-Saharan Africa in both country and intercountry programme resources.

78. UNFPA was submitting a revised programme ceiling for 1989 of \$190.5 million, which reflected the increase in new programmable resources and carry-forwards from 1988 to 1989. The new planning procedure on which the current programme ceiling was based was an improvement over that used prior to 1987. Nevertheless, it was still a rigid and passive planning mechanism. Since the provisional ceiling figure must remain constant between Council sessions, the programme planning exercise was locked into a single ceiling figure for 12 months even if the income situation changed. That made it difficult to respond to fluctuations in income estimates.

79. UNFPA, therefore, proposed that the approval authority should be set up at the level of programme expenditure which the Council authorized the Fund to make in each year of the work plan period. UNFPA management should accordingly decide on the appropriate levels of allocations to reach the intended programme expenditure as authorized by the Council. The Fund would thus be in a better position to meet the objective of the Council in ensuring maximum utilization of UNFPA programme resources under changing circumstances and in dynamic programme conditions.

80. Since the approval authority was based on the programme expenditure level and since expenditures could be incurred only for the first year of the four-year work plan, UNFPA proposed that the forward approval should be replaced by the projected programmable resources for future years. The first year would be adjusted, if necessary, and become the basis for the approval authority for 1991 when the first year of the new work plan was submitted to the Council. UNFPA would continue to set a programme ceiling internally in order to monitor the level of allocations and achieve a maximum resource utilization level while maintaining financial control. It would rely on the programme ceiling as a useful and necessary management tool to ensure prudent financial practice and maximum financial credibility.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.