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Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 29 May 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (agenda item 6) (continued)

- (a) SPECIAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (DP/1990/44) (continued)
- (b) REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON 1989 ACTIVITIES (DP/1990/45, Parts I, II and III; DP/1990/46, Parts I and II) (continued)

1. Mr. MOYE (United Kingdom) said that the report and statement by the Executive Director of UNFPA focused attention on the enormity and urgency of the population problem. His delegation was encouraged by the account it had received of UNFPA activities, and, in particular, welcomed the continuing improvement in expenditure performance, the increased concentration of resources in sub-Saharan Africa and the continued emphasis on the question of women in development.
2. The Executive Director's report referred to a number of studies and reviews undertaken by UNFPA. It might be of value to the Governing Council if in future years the Fund could include in its documentation a short list of the studies undertaken, and, if there was sufficient demand, an abstract of each study.
3. In her statement the Executive Director of UNFPA had referred to the critical problem of support for local salaries and other recurrent costs. He asked for clarification of UNFPA's current position on that issue, and for its views on how the problem should be tackled in the future.
4. Among the important conclusions emerging from the Amsterdam Declaration were: the need to create a greater awareness of population issues in the international community; the need to examine means of increasing the effectiveness of population programmes; the importance of co-ordinating population activities at both country and international levels; and the need for increased resources for population assistance. With regard to the first of those issues, UNFPA had a vital role to play. To cite just one example, the 1990 State of World Population report had been frequently quoted in a debate on the relationship between poverty, illiteracy, environmental degradation and population growth held in the Upper Chamber of the United Kingdom Parliament the previous week.
5. With regard to the effectiveness of aid, he stressed the importance his delegation attached to evaluation. The report on agency support costs (DP/1990/9) had been critical not only of the agencies undertaking the United Nations technical co-operation programme, but also of UNFPA itself. His delegation welcomed UNFPA's honest and positive response to that report, and its proposals for reshaping the procedures for entrusting work to the agencies. It also noted the recommendation that more work should be entrusted to NGOs. What emerged from the report was, firstly, that the funds devoted to technical co-operation must secure the objective of that co-operation, and secondly, that the aid delivered must be cost-effective, with competitive proposals sought from those entrusted with its execution.

6. With regard to co-ordination, his delegation reiterated the importance of co-ordination at the country level. Following the DAC meeting the previous month, the United Kingdom had written to DAC, suggesting that it might wish to pursue the question of co-ordination at the country level with UNFPA and the World Bank, identifying a list of countries on which efforts to improve co-ordination could be focused and determining which agency should take the lead in that process.

7. On the question of co-ordination at the international level, his delegation did not advocate creating a new mechanism for that purpose. Such questions were best dealt with on a specific basis. UNFPA was to be commended for its efforts to improve co-ordination among the various agencies, and for its positive response to General Assembly resolution 44/211. It was to be hoped that some of its sister agencies would adopt a similar positive attitude. His delegation welcomed the joint letter to UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO field offices, and supported the proposal by Denmark that a report should be submitted to the following session of the Governing Council on collaboration between UNICEF and UNFPA. It was important that WHO and the World Bank should be included in that report, for while the will to improve co-ordination existed at senior management level at Headquarters, the situation at the field level was often quite different.

8. With regard to resources for population assistance, his delegation agreed that more resources were required for population, and felt that it was incumbent on all parties - recipient Governments, donors, the private sector and NGOs - to make extra resources available. Some donors were not very active in that field; the European Community, for example, should direct more of its available resources towards population activities, and increase population awareness in the Community. Understanding of population issues among the regional development banks, and in particular the African Development Bank, also left something to be desired. The United Kingdom had long been an active participant in population assistance and would remain a sizeable donor. The United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration was currently examining how more could be done in that field.

9. Almost as important as the need to increase population resources was the need to increase population awareness, not only in the developing countries, but also within the aid agencies themselves. Increased awareness of the relationship between population and development might lead to an increased commitment to providing resources under bilateral as well as multilateral programmes. The United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration had held its first staff training seminar on that question the previous week. The work undertaken by the Centre for Population Studies of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine was also worthy of mention. His Government had recently launched a five-year support programme for research and training in two population-related programmes at the Centre, one on population and health, the other on population and aging.

10. In concluding her statement the previous day, the Executive Director of UNFPA had stressed the need to translate words into effective and sustained action. His delegation fully endorsed that remark, expressed its confidence in UNFPA's ability to tackle the many problems that lay ahead, and assured the Fund of its full support.

11. Mr. URZUA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that it was a source of great satisfaction for UNESCO to have worked in partnership with UNFPA almost from its inception. Population had been a concern in UNESCO from the outset. Its association with UNFPA had enabled it to translate a general awareness into practical technical assistance and operational projects. UNESCO was currently responsible for 102 projects in 57 countries, and the trend was towards wider coverage both of countries and of types of projects. In parallel with the growth of operational projects executed and technically assisted by UNESCO with financial support from UNFPA, UNESCO's regular programme activities in the population field had been expanded. For the 1990-1991 biennium they covered areas such as socio-cultural aspects of internal and international migration, socio-cultural factors affecting fertility change, women as agents of change, changes in family structure and function, population aging, and population, environment and sustainable development. Population activities were now spread over most major sectors of UNESCO. The number and variety of those activities had increased the need for co-ordination and integration, both at headquarters and in the regions. Accordingly, new structures for managing population projects had been created and were now being put to use.

12. For UNESCO, discussion of support costs and new ways of organizing United Nations technical assistance in the population field could not be divorced from the developments he had just summarized. The major outstanding problem was the need to make the fullest possible use of the technical capacity and field experience of the agencies and at the same time to strengthen co-ordination of activities throughout the United Nations system. UNFPA and the agencies were now starting to discuss that delicate subject. At the present juncture, he wished to state only that any new arrangement should be based on a clear division of labour between funding sources, technical agencies and executants. In that regard, at its 134th meeting the Executive Board of UNESCO had recently approved resolution EX/16, which (1) urged the UNDP Governing Council and the Administrator to ensure the full utilization of the technical and management capacities of the United Nations system at all stages of the programme and project cycle; (2) reiterated its support for the optimal utilization of the government execution modality; and (3) stressed, however, its view that the substantive backstopping of that modality should be provided by United Nations agencies and that adequate compensation should be foreseen for that in any new support cost arrangements.

13. He believed that those principles were endorsed by UNFPA and the agencies. At present, however, they were a long way from agreement on a specific arrangement. Such an agreement would doubtless be reached, but when and on what basis were still open questions.

14. Mr. ELGHADUTH (Mauritania) said that the population explosion had become an unavoidable fact of modern life, as had the basic aspiration of all nations and peoples to attain decent living standards. It was thus necessary to take vigorous action to halt the demographic, ecological and development crisis.

15. The reduction of tension in the world and the search for solutions to the various local and regional conflicts, in particular via the impending super-Power summit, were promoting a more stable and secure international environment, more conducive to economic and social development. His country was encouraged by the consensus reached at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly devoted to International Economic Co-operation, in

particular to the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries. It hoped that the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Conference on Environment and Development and the International Population Meeting would reach concerted decisions on action to be taken.

16. He wished to stress the crucial importance of population problems in that regard. In all development strategies, constant priority must be given to questions regarding fertility, mortality, morbidity, migration, education, and the eradication of all contagious diseases, and not simply AIDS. In order to meet that crucial challenge, the international community must make available to UNFPA the necessary resources to enable it to assist and advise Governments in implementing the most appropriate strategies to halt the population explosion, which was becoming a matter for alarm among all sections of public opinion.

17. In its 21 years of existence, UNFPA had demonstrated its viability and the usefulness and relevance of its mandate, and had managed to establish a firm financial basis. It was interesting to note that the African countries had been the largest group voluntarily to increase their contributions to the Fund, an increase which bore witness to the importance they attached to its activities. Mauritania welcomed the many forms of co-operation that linked it to UNFPA, and, as a priority country, considered itself entitled to benefit from fuller and more extensive co-operation in the future. It also welcomed the decisions of the Governing Council to give high priority to the pressing problems of the African continent, which was still the second beneficiary of the Fund's resources. His delegation called for the full and rapid implementation of those decisions.

18. Africa, which was already seriously indebted and malnourished, essentially because of the poor remuneration it received for its exports, was experiencing unprecedented rates of population growth. The situation called for action, particularly as economic and social development planning and integration of population factors in that planning were recent approaches requiring resources and expertise that were generally lacking.

19. The population of Africa was currently estimated at 750 million and was growing at around 3 per cent annually. That spectacular growth would increase still further, with Africa's population numbering 1 billion in 15 years and 1.5 billion in less than 40 years, on the basis of an average of projections. That growth was attributable to a mortality rate that, while still high in comparison with the rest of the world, was falling, and to a fertility rate that had remained high for a number of years, stimulated in particular by a young population. However, as the most recent crisis in the 1980s had shown, agricultural production had been unable to keep pace with population growth. Drought and desertification had had profound effects on much of Africa during the past two decades. In Mauritania, and elsewhere in Africa, efforts were under way to ascertain their effects on population, and to attempt to reduce the rural exodus and the rapid, not to say anarchic, growth of towns when they recurred. The results of the various surveys contained in the report by the Population Commission showed a definite increase in awareness, attitudes and actions on the part of African peoples and Governments concerning population policies. Examples included the adoption by the Heads of African States

in 1984 of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action for African Population and Self-reliant Development, the recommendations of the Bucharest World Population Plan of Action in 1974, reiterated in Mexico City in 1984, and the Damascus and Amman Conferences.

20. Mauritania was currently investigating the possibilities of government action targeted on couples and opinion-formers, with a view to finding a policy acceptable to all. Ultimately, however, whatever measures were taken by Governments, couples had a sacrosanct right to decide. Efforts must thus be focused on what was attainable, and not on projects or concepts alien to the African continent. In that regard, his delegation had read with great interest the section of the report on support by UNFPA for socio-cultural research to take account of the differing attitudes, beliefs and customs in different regions regarding fertility and family planning. The ultimate objective must be to educate populations so as to enable couples to plan their families freely and responsibly. Technical co-operation between developing countries and exchanges of experience by the various countries of the region could and must play a role in that process.

21. His delegation had also read with interest the chapters of the report dealing with the relationship between population and poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, disease and the external debt crisis, together with its corollary, structural adjustment. If those problems and constraints received the attention they deserved and were acted upon, the nature and dimension of population problems in Africa could be expected to change in the coming years.

22. Mr. KOSTMAYER (Population Institute) said that he was addressing the Governing Council not as a member of the United States delegation or as a representative of his Government, but as an observer with the delegation of the Population Institute, an NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. From the United States he brought good wishes, but no money. He hoped next year to bring both. There were some who said that he should not be making those remarks today, yet he could not refrain from protesting at the fact that the United States delegation continued to involve itself in deliberations to shape UNFPA's future but had failed to contribute a single cent to the Fund for the past five years. Nor had the official United States statement the previous day offered any plausible explanation for that failure to contribute. The facts were the following: the previous year, Congress had voted to fund UNFPA, but President Bush had vetoed the foreign aid bill making those funds available. While voluntary family planning enjoyed the support of a majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate, the attempt to work out a compromise enabling the United States to support that crucial international effort had failed. There was strong support for voluntary family planning throughout the United States and in Congress, even among many who for reasons of conscience opposed abortion. They supported voluntary family planning because they recognized the difference.

23. The current Administration, like the Reagan Administration preceding it, continued to oppose funding for UNFPA, ostensibly because of the controversial nature of the Chinese programme. Even when United States dollars were held in a segregated UNFPA account, with none of the dollars going to UNFPA programmes in China and none of the funds being used for abortion in China or anywhere else in the world, the Administration, fearful of the anti-choice forces in the United States, still denied assistance to the largest multilateral provider of voluntary family planning funds in the world.

24. The United States Congress was currently contemplating legislation, sponsored by over 130 members of Congress from both parties, to double United States population assistance to \$US 500 million for voluntary family planning the following year. Sixty million dollars of that amount was to be solely for the use of UNFPA. In his view, Congress would enact that legislation.

25. The relationship of population to every issue facing mankind - the environment, resources, nutrition, housing, education, employment, health and peace itself - was obvious. In the past year, the world had watched the face of Europe change. In both the Soviet Union and the United States, private citizens and public figures were calling for reduced spending on the international arms race. Sentiment in the United States Congress was the same; the world was visibly changing. The time had come to refocus energies, to turn and face the problems that had been ignored for a decade, for the problems bearing down so cruelly on the third world must before long bear down on the industrialized countries, unless they provided help for those suffering in the world's poorest lands.

26. It was with some embarrassment, then, that he was addressing the Council, embarrassed by the unwillingness of the United States Administration to contribute to such a worth-while venture. Those in the NGOs, in Congress and in every part of the United States who shared the Council's dream of a stable and just world would continue to fight for UNFPA funding because they knew that their country's proper place was as a partner in international efforts to solve one of the great international problems. While its absence was shameful, it was only temporary, and it would return with more than just good wishes. In the meantime, he urged UNFPA to continue the struggle, for without its efforts, generosity and commitment, the level of human suffering and misery would be much greater than it now was.

27. Ms. DRZEWIENIECKA (Poland) said that her country's work on demographic and social policies was already benefiting from the in-depth analysis undertaken by UNFPA. Her delegation welcomed the Amsterdam Declaration, entitled "A better life for future generations" and adopted by the International Forum in November 1989, which highlighted important issues such as responsibility to future generations, the inextricable links between population, resources and the environment, the need for rapid action to slow population growth, particularly in the developing countries, the need to enhance the status and position of women, and the need for recognition of the fact that the main objective of social and economic development - of which population policies and programmes formed an integral part - was to improve the quality of life of the population. Her delegation acknowledged the great importance of the Amsterdam Declaration and was convinced that it would find a worthy follow-up in the work of the United Nations on the new International Development Strategy for the 1990s.

28. Her delegation hoped that the Amsterdam Declaration would contribute to the enhancement of programme effectiveness at both the national and international levels, and to the mobilization of the resources required for their implementation. The Declaration made it abundantly clear how important population problems were for the future of the development process.

29. During the previous decade, economic development in Poland had been slowed and sometimes even reversed by very grave problems. The current very difficult situation was temporary, however, and it was the hope of her delegation that the Polish economy would stabilize in a few years' time. In the meantime, the Government was attempting to lessen the negative impact of deteriorating material conditions on the health of the population and on family planning. During the 1980s, female fertility had dropped in Poland. In 1989, the fertility rate of women of reproduction age had been 2.1, which represented no more than the replacement of a generation. The birth rate had fallen from 19.7 per thousand in 1983 to 14.9 per thousand in 1989, which meant that in Poland controlled fertility was gradually increasing. Infant mortality had declined from 20.5 per thousand live births in 1980 to 15.9 in 1989. However, it was still higher than in other European countries.
30. The increase in the mortality rate of men of productive age during the 1980s represented a serious demographic problem. That situation was the result of an increased number of deaths from the diseases of civilization, such as heart disease, cancer, poisoning and trauma. A very unfavourable development had been the increase in the number of premature deaths between the ages of 45 and 64.
31. Poland, like all other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, was currently grappling with increasingly serious problems linked to diseases of civilization resulting in part from the effects of pollution. More than 30 per cent of the Polish population lived in regions affected by the ecological crisis, and in those areas more and more children were born with birth defects and low weight. Environmental pollution was also reflected in the increased susceptibility of children and adults to many diseases. In addition, health problems were linked with the aging process in Polish society and with the increase in the number of handicapped persons. According to demographic forecasts, the population of Poland would increase by 1.6 million people by the year 2000, when the population over 45 years of age would have increased by almost 2.3 million. The number of invalids was growing rapidly. According to the latest national census of 1989, the number of invalids had risen to 3.7 million, in other words, one citizen in 10. That phenomenon affected not only Poland but also other European countries. It was therefore essential to prepare programmes which would cover the entire problem of handicapped persons, including early treatment and rehabilitation, vocational reorientation, employment, housing and full social integration. The specialized agencies should initiate interdisciplinary research programmes in co-operation with interested countries or groups of countries which were faced by the same problems.
32. Her Government greatly appreciated the co-operation of UNFPA and was constantly seeking to broaden the framework of such co-operation. In 1989, Poland, with the technical assistance of UNFPA, had started to implement three research programmes on fertility, infant mortality and family break-up (DP/1990/45, Part I, para. 46). Other projects were being prepared for submission to UNFPA. During the current year, the fourth training course for 25 participants from developing countries would be held in Warsaw, with the collaboration of UNFPA and the Department of Technical Co-operation and Development, on the subject of the application of demographic forecasts to economic and social planning. Thus Poland's joint projects with UNFPA were also of benefit to the developing countries. In that connection, she would

like to emphasize her Government's interest in an increase in the number of UNFPA national projects in Poland, as well as a more substantial commitment to activities at the regional (European) and interregional levels.

33. Poland had acquired considerable experience in co-ordinated research on demographic problems and was ready to share the results of such studies with other countries. In her view, there were as yet unexploited possibilities for co-operation in that field. That was also true of the participation of Polish experts in UNFPA field work.

34. Mr. ALBERTS (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that he would address three issues, namely, agency support costs, the Amsterdam Declaration, and the evaluation report.

35. On the first issue, FAO appreciated UNFPA's invitation to discuss alternatives and options, the need for national execution and the use of the technical capacity of the specialized agencies. No agreement had yet been reached on specific arrangements, but FAO would define its position in fresh discussions to be held in the near future.

36. In the view of FAO, the Amsterdam Declaration was a document of outstanding quality. The reasons given in the document for the lack of complementarity between development policies and population policies were understandable but not complete. Development policies in general were well designed but in many developing countries such policies were urban-biased. If population policies were integrated into development policies which were urban-biased, the result would be that population programmes would not reach certain sectors of the population. Such was the case in a number of Asian countries, where the forestry and fisheries sectors were not reached by population policies because those sectors were not included in development plans. In the Philippines, for example, more than 40 per cent of the population lived in forestry and fishing communities and had not been reached by population activities. Those were the most vulnerable and poorest groups in the country. FAO had taken initiatives in co-operation with UNFPA to develop programmes to address that issue and those should be followed up by larger projects. FAO believed that UNFPA's programme review mission should devote more attention to the problem of urban bias in development planning; in that connection, FAO was prepared to give early technical advice on the population factor in the world development process.

37. The evaluation report prepared by UNFPA on the agencies' intercountry programmes had been very useful. FAO had emerged well from the evaluation and had agreed to the recommendations made, most of which had already been implemented. It considered that such exercises should be continued. It was not sufficient, however, to look only at interregional programmes; regional activities and country programmes should be given more attention so that the whole gamut of population programme activities, from the interregional to the regional and country levels, could be looked at as a whole. Such an overview would indicate to UNFPA exactly what was going on in the whole programme and the Fund would therefore be in a better position to assist FAO in building up technical capacity at the regional and country levels.

38. The report referred to weaknesses in the FAO population programme and, in particular, said that it provided no comprehensive framework for population and development. In the view of FAO, there was no way in which such a

comprehensive framework could be developed. Moreover, it was unfortunate that the consultant in the UNFPA-funded team had not had time to look at all the FAO studies which included population elements, such as the studies on women in agriculture and on landlessness. The report was, therefore, not sufficiently balanced. Lastly, the mission had concluded that FAO should do a better job in designing national population policies. That was not the job of FAO, which could only give technical assistance to Governments in the identification of potential demographic programmes. FAO could support UNFPA programmes by incorporating population information, education and communication activities in all rural development projects, but it was not an agency which could design population policies.

39. Mr. ABDEL (Egypt) said that his delegation wished to reaffirm the central role of UNFPA in the domain of population policies and programmes. The population question was closely interrelated with many other issues, including that of the balance between the current use of resources and future resource requirements. In the case of Africa, the population question constituted an urgent priority which called for increased international support, particularly from UNFPA, because of Africa's problems of drought, desertification, natural disasters, external indebtedness, and the vulnerability of the institutional and physical infrastructure.

40. For many years past, Egypt had adopted a comprehensive national population policy designed to disseminate information on family planning and the provision of the means of family planning in the light of the prevailing religious and cultural values in Egyptian society. The Government had also provided equal education and job opportunities for women so that they would become equal partners in the development process. An increasing proportion of the national budget had been devoted to population activities.

41. Co-operation between Egypt and UNFPA had crystallized in two forms. First, the International Centre for Islamic Population Studies and Research, affiliated to Al-Azhar University and co-financed by UNFPA, had organized two seminars in 1989, one in Fez (Morocco) and the other in Sana'a (United Yemeni Republic). Both seminars had addressed the position of Islam on population policies. Secondly, the Cairo Demographic Centre, supported by UNFPA, provided international scholarships, including scholarships at the Ph.D. level.

42. In the Arab context, Egypt had participated actively and at the highest level in both the second Arab parliamentary conference on people and development, held in Syria in September 1989, and the Arab Ministerial Conference on Population, Women and Environment, held in Jordan in October 1989.

43. Mr. EJIQGU (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development) said that the Department was UNFPA's largest executing agency and was currently deeply involved in developing national and interregional projects which addressed various populations issues. The Department's technical advisers continued to provide services to UNFPA programme review and strategy development, project formulation and evaluation, in addition to backstopping country programmes in the areas of data collection and processing, demographic training and research, population dynamics, and population policy and development planning.

44. The Department's strategy of supporting more effective national programme execution consisted primarily in helping to develop national capacities and expertise in various population fields through short-term and long-term training. The goal was to enlist the fullest possible participation of national experts and consultants in programme execution. Those processes had resulted in building up the skills of national personnel in the areas of the Department's mandate so that full responsibility for the execution of their own programmes could be transferred to such personnel at the earliest possible moment. Evidence of the success of that approach could be seen in the continuing decline in the number of long-term resident United Nations advisers and experts working on country projects and in the concomitant increase in projects which relied almost exclusively on national expertise.

45. The Department's recent efforts had been directed at closing gaps in the methodology for integrating population into development, as highlighted in UNFPA's report on the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration (DP/1990/44). The Department had developed a new macro-demo-economic simulation model for planning which took into account the effects of selected key socio-economic factors on mortality, fertility and migration. The model promised to offer at least a partial solution to the single-sector approach to population policy formulation.

46. Other activities included interregional programmes and projects designed to meet country needs, such as the Cairo Demographic Centre, which provided a full range of post-graduate training in population and development, and population dynamics, and the United Nations/USSR training programme, which provided short-term training in population and development to middle- and higher-level planning personnel from developing countries.

47. The Department believed that special consideration should be given to the continued full and effective utilization of the highly trained and experienced pool of human resources already available in the various United Nations agencies, and was pleased to see that UNFPA's proposals pointed in the same direction. The Department's overall programme to date responded to the goals set out in the World Population Plan of Action, as reaffirmed in the Amsterdam Declaration.

48. Lessons learned from the 1980 round of population censuses had guided the Department in building into the design of the 1990 round special programmes on data collection, analysis and dissemination. Increased efforts had been made to assist Governments in conducting population and housing censuses as part of the 1990 round of censuses and in processing and analysing the census data through the use of computer technology. Considerable strides had been made in building up national self-reliance and transfer of technology through human resource development. The overall thrust of technical co-operation in population activities in the future would continue to be the development of national human resources and institutional capacity for self-reliance, particularly in the African region.

49. In response to Governing Council decision 89/50, concerted efforts had been made in 1989 to include women's concerns in all population projects assisted by the Department. For example, at the 1989/90 session of the Cairo Demographic Centre, 33 per cent of the students had been women and 42 per cent of trainees in the United Nations/USSR programme had been women. The latter programme devoted a course to the subject of women and socio-economic

50. Progress had been made in obtaining special tabulations by sex of demographic and socio-economic data collected through sample surveys and censuses. A microcomputer-based model on women in development, particularly in rural agricultural settings, had been developed. As empirical data became available, the validity of the model would be tested and modified as necessary. In conclusion, he wished to emphasize the full support of the Department for the substantive priorities in population set forth in the Amsterdam Declaration and for those measures envisaged to strengthen further the technical co-operation between donors and technical agencies, on the one hand, and the developing countries, on the other.

51. Mr. TABAH (France) associated his delegation with those delegations which had expressed support for the general objectives of UNFPA, even though France's multilateral contribution might appear to be low by comparison with that of other industrialized countries. The contribution for 1990, however, was more than double that in 1988 and he hoped that it would continue to increase substantially in future years.

52. There were several ways of helping the third-world countries to achieve their population objectives and France intended to provide fresh support for African countries which had requested assistance in implementing the recommendations of the Conferences in Bucharest, Mexico City and Amsterdam. In the case of requests approved by his Government, France proposed to entrust UNFPA with management of the resources which it would make available to Governments for training in population matters or for activities designed to decrease mortality rates, to correct geographically unbalanced population distribution and to encourage family planning.

53. His delegation reiterated its support for the Declaration on international economic co-operation and, in particular, the revitalization of economic growth and development, in paragraph 25 of which the importance of population policies for human welfare and fruitful development had been stressed. In that connection, his delegation intended to submit proposals on the control of demographic growth to the forthcoming Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries. It would further express the hope that UNFPA would strengthen its activities to assist the least developed countries.

54. His delegation hoped that UNFPA would play an active part in the preparations for the proposed International Meeting on Population in 1994 and the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade, where population issues should be given the place they deserved.

55. The periodic report on evaluation (DP/1990/49) was clear and frank, and provided very useful information on evaluation activities. In his delegation's opinion, it should be distributed not only to experts and decision-makers but also within the international scientific community. In general, little progress had been made to date in integrating the population variable in development planning, although considerable resources had been devoted to that endeavour. In that connection, it might be asked whether a series of activities had been initiated without sufficient preparation in relation to concepts and methods. However, the action had not been in vain since it had at least aroused interest in population questions among planners and researchers. In his opinion, it would be useful if the same critical

evaluation was made concerning the influence of family planning programmes on demographic development, an area which was as difficult as that of integration and about which little was known.

56. His delegation welcomed the fact that UNFPA was according so much importance to the status of women and hoped that it would do so in close co-ordination with the United Nations Development Fund for Women. Women should be removed from male domination by modifying the arbitrary distribution of roles in the family. They should be enabled to produce and create, and not merely to procreate.

57. His delegation had been favourably impressed by the report on the implications for population programmes of the Amsterdam Declaration (DP/1990/44). It fully supported the Amsterdam Declaration and wished to draw attention to two essential ideas. The first was that never before had the importance of the influence of population factors on development been so strongly confirmed. Genuine development could no longer be considered in the third world without demographic transition and it was clear that the countries which made that transition most rapidly would be the best placed in international economic co-operation. The second idea was that a large portion of the third world, composed almost entirely of least developed countries, was excluded from development. Since that considerable population had not yet undergone a genuine demographic transition, it would double in size by the year 2025. Efforts should therefore be made to provide information and education on contraception to that population if demographic growth was to be slowed over the long term. In the second half of the next century, population growth would occur essentially in the least developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. His delegation therefore endorsed the priority given by UNFPA to programmes concerning those countries.

58. At the practical level, UNFPA should endeavour to devise activities aimed at removing the least developed countries from that category. His delegation suggested actions relating to the following four fields, which had not always received the attention of UNFPA. First of all, more work should be done in relation to the increase in mortality in tropical countries. Clearly, there had been an increase in malaria, threatening at least 1.7 billion inhabitants of tropical regions. The dramatic emergence of AIDS on the epidemiological scene gave cause for growing concern. Sociological and family structures in sub-Saharan Africa made its populations particularly vulnerable. The effects of AIDS on the demographic situation must be evaluated, particularly since the amount of budgetary resources devoted to health in the poor countries continued to decline.

59. Secondly, consideration should be given to the question of migratory trends. The absorptive capacity of industrial countries was limited, whereas the demand for immigration to rich countries was steadily increasing.

60. Thirdly, the world as a whole was clearly witnessing an aging process, which had begun mainly in the rich countries but was also becoming apparent in the poor countries. In that connection, the latter were not prepared to deal with the process's economic and social consequences. It was often said that Africa had a great many other problems to overcome, but given the fact that the number of persons over 60 would increase from 27 to 101 million by the year 2025, it was clear that the continent would not escape the problem. The experience of the rich countries showed that it was a matter which must be

dealt with in an anticipatory spirit. It was not enough to be concerned about population growth; it was also necessary to take account of changes in the population structure caused by factors which swelled the apex of the age pyramid.

1. Fourthly, reference must be made to the question of the interrelationship between population, the environment, food and energy. The harsh truth was that it was becoming impossible to narrow the gap between rich countries and poor countries within the system of economic and social organization of the rich countries. Many developing countries were going to become industrialized without having the financial resources to deal with environmental problems. The effects of demographic growth on the environment must be evaluated, as had been pointed out by the representatives of Canada and Finland. Consideration must be given to questions such as the air people would breathe and the water they would drink in the next century if 7 billion humans were to become industrialized in accordance with their legitimate aspirations.

2. It was in those four areas that the greatest changes were taking place in the world and it was essential that UNFPA should include them in its programme of action. The current session had witnessed a new development which was most welcome, namely, the co-ordination undertaken by UNFPA with bodies working in related fields, such as WHO, UNICEF, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the World Bank.

3. Mr. SYARIEF (Observer for Indonesia) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the excellent work done by UNFPA in formulating and implementing its many important activities for the benefit of mankind. It was encouraging to note that world-wide acceptance of the population question as an integral part of the overall development plans and programmes was increasing. At the same time, however, general concern had been expressed at the rate of expansion of the world's population predicted over the following decade. The United Nations had estimated that the population would have increased to more than 6.2 billion by the year 2000. Such a situation would, of course, hinder the development process of many countries. Population problems must therefore be addressed quantitatively with a view to decelerating population growth while concurrently trying to convert population from a liability into an asset by improving its quality through human resources development.

4. In terms of the management of resources, such population growth could impede countries' limited capacity to maintain development and could seriously threaten social and political stability. That grim prospect would be worsened if scientific and technological advances were to cease. Consequently, the objectives of the world population plan and UNFPA's wide-ranging review and assessment exercise were increasingly relevant for the contemporary world. In his delegation's opinion, the Fund's activities, which were successfully increasing awareness of population problems, should be actively supported by all countries. It would be useful if Governments endorsed the Amsterdam Declaration since it could be incorporated into the development policies of individual countries. His delegation supported the general thrust of the Executive Director's recommendations relating to the Declaration and felt that it was important to take into account the limited resources of developing countries.

65. As the world's fifth most populous nation, Indonesia, faced with the difficulties involved in absorbing new entrants into the labour force, had formulated a national five-year plan (1989-1994) which sought to reduce the population growth rate to 1.9 per cent and stressed human resources development. Indonesia appreciated UNFPA's efforts in helping to resolve its population problems through the fourth cycle of UNFPA assistance. It was pleased to note the recommendation (by the UNFPA mission to evaluate the population programme in Indonesia) that priority assistance was needed in order to achieve the programme's objectives. His delegation hoped that the Governing Council would support that recommendation.

66. He supported the efforts made by the Fund and all nations to enhance priority action under the population programme, inter alia, by strengthening national human resources.

67. Mr. ISTORE (Romania) said his delegation was pleased to note that UNFPA had accelerated the rate of implementation in 1989 and that, as a result, the unexpended balance of general resources had decreased considerably. His delegation hoped that the Fund would continue to pursue that policy with due regard to the balance between income and expenditure. His delegation welcomed the increase in the resources allocated to the country programme and priority countries.

68. The year 1989, which had marked the twentieth anniversary of the Fund, had been remarkable in many respects. Encouraging progress had been made in reducing political conflicts and strengthening national independence and radical political changes had occurred in Eastern Europe. Following the December 1989 revolution, his country was more interested than ever in developing co-operation with UNFPA on a multilateral basis. In that connection, it was pleased to see that a UNFPA co-operation project concerning a population census in Romania was being formulated and hoped that it could soon be implemented. With regard to a visit to Romania paid in March 1990 by a joint UNFPA-WHO-IPPF delegation, which had resulted in an agreement on the possible initiation of a two-year family planning project, his delegation looked forward to seeing that initiative take the form of a concrete operational activity. His delegation considered that the work plan for 1991-1994 would ensure the efficient use of available resources and fully supported it.

69. With regard to the proposed 1994 international meeting on population, his delegation agreed that it would help to consolidate the commitment of the entire international community to population considerations at a time when decisive action in that field could make a major difference in the next century. Some delegations had mentioned at a previous meeting the importance of the first World Population Conference held in Bucharest in 1974 and its impact on development/population activities. It was true that the Conference had resulted in general recognition of the importance of population factors as an integral part of economic and social development. In his delegation's opinion, that recognition would be reconfirmed in 1994.

70. Dr. PETROS-BARVAZIAN (World Health Organization) said that over the years collaboration between WHO and UNFPA had increased in both scope and intensity. She wished to refer to a number of activities in which her organization had collaborated with UNFPA. The concepts, policies and approaches involved in technical issues concerning family planning, as

perceived by WHO, UNFPA and other partners in the United Nations system, had become closer, which had facilitated her organization's task. The most urgent issue at the present time was how to improve the implementation of maternal and child health/family planning (MCH/FP), particularly at the country level. WHO would be pleased to participate in the preparation of a paper to be submitted on that question for consideration by the Governing Council at its next session.

71. WHO was constitutionally entrusted with responsibility for monitoring global health trends, identifying growing health concerns, promoting international and national awareness of those problems, and bringing attention and resources to bear on them. In recent years, considerable efforts had been made to increase awareness of the problem of maternal health and mortality, which had resulted in the mobilization of substantial international resources for country-level studies and intervention to prevent maternal mortality. Another example was the promotion of adolescent health, including reproductive health.

72. In connection with the recent session of the World Health Assembly, the Director-General had organized a special plenary meeting on the economic realities and health development problems of least developed countries. At the meeting, attention had been drawn to the interrelationship between health and population, including the health benefits of family planning, and stress had been laid on the need for specific action to enhance the status of women and improve MCH/FP programmes as a key investment for least developed countries.

73. At the recent meeting of the child survival task force, held in Bangkok in March, the common goals of WHO and UNICEF had been extended to include issues concerning family planning, safe motherhood, improved status of women, and improved education and nutrition for girls, lactating and pregnant women. She wished to thank UNFPA for its continued support in those areas, which complemented the action covered by the regular budget of WHO and other extra-regular resources.

74. As to the evaluation of WHO's African region and eastern Mediterranean region inter-country programmes, she wished to inform the Council that WHO was very keen on built-in evaluation and welcomed frank observations from all parties concerned as an important tool for improved management, efficiency and effectiveness. In that spirit, it had collaborated closely in all evaluations undertaken so far by UNFPA.

75. With regard to paragraphs 212 and 213 of document DP/1990/45 (Part III), it was understandable that when mention was made of only one paragraph in isolation from the context of the total evaluation report of some 50 pages for the African region and about 30 pages for the eastern Mediterranean, it was found to be somewhat misleading. However, as interest had been expressed in the Council concerning feedback and utilization of the results of the evaluation, she wished to give a few examples of the steps taken in that connection. A meeting had been organized jointly by WHO and UNFPA at the Regional Office for the African Region (AFRO) in mid-February 1990 to plan the co-ordinated country-support programme for 1990 and to follow-up specific recommendations of the evaluation requiring immediate action by AFRO, identifying the support required from WHO headquarters and specific remedial action to be taken by UNFPA in order to improve the support given to

countries. There was clearly a great need to strengthen human resources in the African region as a whole, including additional staff support in MCH/FP in the Regional Office and possibly the creation of an additional multi-disciplinary team for MCH/FP as requested by AFRO. It should be noted that, in view of the special needs of the African region, out of 60 backstopping missions from WHO headquarters for MCH/FP activities, 30 had been in that region.

76. Her organization fully supported the Amsterdam Declaration and was prepared to collaborate with UNFPA and the United Nations system with a view to achieving its goals. As to the question of government execution and programmes versus projects, WHO had encouraged government execution since 1970 and the use of national co-ordination. It would be pleased to follow UNFPA's suggestions on government execution. With respect to programme support costs, WHO agreed with the comments made by representatives from other agencies. In conclusion, she expressed her organization's readiness to act jointly with UNFPA and other partners in support of country programmes in population, health and MCH/FP.

77. Mr. KOSTOV (Bulgaria) said that his Government was well aware of the importance of population issues; for several years, Bulgaria had been increasing its voluntary contributions to the Fund by more than 10 per cent annually, not an easy task for a country facing a severe economic crisis. His delegation was pleased that the close relationship between population and environment had been recognized. It also noted with appreciation the joint action of UNFPA and the Government of the Netherlands in organizing the International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century.

78. Bulgaria shared the view that co-ordination should be effected at the national level and should be the responsibility of the recipient Government. In that connection, it was important to take due account of local conditions, historical and cultural traditions, and other relevant factors. Furthermore, co-ordination and streamlining of activities at the international level should be sought not only by UNFPA and UNDP, but also by UNICEF, WHO and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

79. The emerging AIDS pandemic would have a major impact on population issues. In that regard, it was particularly important to give appropriate attention to maternal and child health. In the past, co-operation between Bulgaria and UNFPA had focused primarily on joint research in integrated statistical socio-demographic analyses, from which many developing countries had benefited. But the relatively high infant mortality in Bulgaria and the threat of AIDS had led his Government to devote more attention to child health care and maternity problems, and Bulgaria counted on UNFPA assistance in that respect.

80. Mr. SMALLENBROEK (Netherlands) agreed with the Executive Director of UNFPA that those countries whose population programmes were achieving maturity would require assistance on a declining scale, but wondered whether that would have any consequences for the allocation of resources. His delegation would appreciate it if the reasons for placing greater emphasis on maternal care in maternal and child health care activities could be spelt out in more detail.

81. The Executive Director had identified a number of shortcomings relating to the women's dimension in evaluations. His delegation inquired how those problems would be addressed and whether the women's dimension would also be taken into account in programme review and strategy development missions. It also wished to know whether there was a new work plan to strengthen the capacity of the Fund to deal with issues concerning women, population and development. His delegation assumed that a document on that subject would be submitted to the Governing Council in 1991.
82. His delegation agreed on the need for socio-cultural research. The Executive Director had, however, cited few examples of socio-cultural research projects in Africa, and his Government had the impression that most projects of that type were executed in Latin America and Asia.
83. Ms. CLARKE-KWESIE (Ghana) said her delegation had noted with concern that fertility rates were declining at a very slow pace and that, according to estimates, Africa's population would double over the next 23 years. Unless effectively checked, that would have serious implications for the socio-economic development of the world as a whole and the developing countries in particular. In order to grapple with their economic problems, the sub-Saharan African countries had embarked on structural adjustment programmes that entailed strict adherence to a judicious allocation of resources. At the same time, however, the decreasing revenues resulting from the decline in commodity prices were seriously affecting the resources set aside for the most vulnerable social groups.
84. Her delegation agreed on the need to intensify training for women and girls and improve their standard of living in order to make them more receptive to family planning and birth spacing. But such activities could only be carried out if adequate funds were provided to countries hurt by sharp fluctuations in export earnings.
85. The rapid growth in the world population was a serious threat to the environment and had been a major cause of deforestation and other forms of environmental degradation. Manageable population growth rates would lead to a higher standard of living for the developing countries, and Ghana supported UNFPA efforts to achieve that goal.
86. With regard to the Amsterdam Declaration which her delegation welcomed, Ghana was strongly in favour of co-ordination in the population field, especially among the various agencies dealing with population issues. The co-ordination of national and international efforts was critical to the success of population programmes.
87. Despite two decades of family planning activities, Ghana's population growth rate remained high, and over the past few years, family planning activities had been intensified accordingly. Family planning counselling and services were currently being carried to women at their places of work. In that connection, Ghana was gratified that the resources allocated to it over the next five years, had increased substantially. Decisions on family planning and birth spacing were taken by both husband and wife, but more often than not family planning activities had been directed exclusively at women, who in practice did not have the final say in birth control matters. Her delegation advocated education and training programmes geared towards men as well.

88. Ms. BWANGA-BUGONZI (Uganda) assured the Council of her Government's full support and co-operation. Her delegation was particularly pleased that, with the assistance of UNFPA, it had been possible to launch a 10-project country programme on population in 1988.

89. Government policy measures and programme support were necessary to alter the current discouraging population trends. Her Government's goal was to lower mortality and fertility rates so as to curtail population growth and improve the quality of life of the population. Long-term changes in the reproductive behaviour of the population could be achieved by introducing relevant educational programmes at all levels, integrating maternal and child health care, family planning and nutritional services into the national health service, promoting training for women and providing adequate logistical support to para-medical and community health workers. Data from surveys and the population census must also be utilized.

90. Owing to its past history and a number of external factors beyond its control, Uganda's economic activity and real per capita GDP had continued to decline. With its relatively narrow export base, it had benefited least from demand in the industrial economies. Export earnings had also been severely affected by the weakness of oil markets and tropical-beverage prices. Like most sub-Saharan countries, Uganda was faced with a severe debt burden which, if alleviated, would enable resources to be generated for financing development programmes.

91. If sustainable development was to be achieved, it was essential to consolidate the progress made by strengthening institutional capacities already in place. For co-ordination purposes UNFPA should ensure the full participation of national experts. At the grass-roots level, the population was aware of the availability of family-planning services. A major obstacle had been the limited capacity of services to reach out to rural areas. Most women were conscious of the need to space their births, participate in economic activities, send their children to school and have them vaccinated. But because of the reduction of government expenditure in the wake of structural adjustment programmes, it had been difficult to reach all those persons who might benefit from those services.

92. While welcoming the Swiss delegation's suggestion to continue to alert men and women to the importance of such issues, her delegation stressed that the current structural adjustment programmes in developing countries should not erode the ability to provide basic services to the population, including the implementation of population programmes. That meant accelerating and expanding resource mobilization. UNDP and the specialized agencies, together with the donor community, should focus long-term efforts on education for women and girls so as to enhance their possibilities. Donors should increasingly channel their resources through the local non-governmental women's organizations so as to ensure internalization and cost effectiveness and expedite both the procurement and recruitment processes, thereby reducing the cost of project implementation.

93. Mr. LIMA (Brazil) stressed the need to assist individual countries in identifying their research priorities and supporting the national research agenda, as underscored in paragraph 17 of document DP/1990/44. Another important issue was the co-ordination of international assistance agencies in the population field and health programmes. In that context, a major

programme had just been approved for Brazil by the UNICEF Executive Board. It was to be hoped that the existing co-ordination between UNFPA and UNICEF in Brazil would be further improved. Efforts to co-ordinate the work of WHO/PAHO in Brazil, however, must be intensified, and WHO/PAHO must join the current co-ordination work of UNICEF, UNFPA and the governmental authorities in the field of technical co-operation.

94. Brazil shared the concern expressed in paragraph 27 about the need to locate a population unit within the government structure, particularly in a country of continental dimensions like Brazil. His Government was certain that a solution could be found to meet the need for a technical population unit directly linked to the existing central technical co-operation unit. Brazil favoured integrating population data collection activities into a country's statistical machinery, as referred to in paragraph 29, that goal having been attained for several years in the Brazilian Institute of Geophysics and Statistics.

95. As the host country for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Brazil supported the proposed steps to address population concerns at that Conference. National contributions to population programmes must be increased in many developing countries. Unfortunately, Brazil was facing serious debt problems and was bearing the burden of structural adjustment programmes. It was to be hoped that the efforts currently being made in Brazil would enable it to make more substantial contributions to population activities.

96. Paragraph 68 of document DP/1990/44 rightly pointed out that strategic planning and programming was the most important area that needed to be promoted in the future. The most effective way to achieve successful implementation of technical co-operation programmes with real impact on a country's development process was through strategic programming with identified priorities for programme action. In that context, his delegation welcomed the exercise that would take place in Brazil in the near future, which would give rise to the first UNFPA programme-oriented action in that country. It was to be hoped that other United Nations agencies active in Brazil would follow UNFPA's example, which was the best way to contribute to a country's development efforts.

97. Mr. NIK JAJAAR (Malaysia) said that the choice of priority programme areas outlined in the report of the Executive Director (DP/1990/45) was in line with Malaysia's national development policies. Like many other developing countries striving to improve the standard of living of their populations, Malaysia lacked the necessary expertise to undertake specific programmes in population development. Many population data had been collected in Malaysia and would be useful for drafting population programmes, but in the absence of expertise, such data, which would have greatly enhanced his Government's efforts to implement effective policies, could not be analysed or utilized. Malaysia would welcome UNFPA assistance in providing the requisite expertise.

98. His delegation was impressed by the various activities undertaken by UNFPA in developing countries within the framework of the priority programme areas, particularly the efforts to identify the actual needs of each country in relation to its level of national development. Malaysia expressed its appreciation to the Fund for the assistance rendered to it and hoped that the

scope of UNFPA's work could be further expanded. It also thanked the Fund for scheduling a programme review and strategy development mission to Malaysia in June/July 1990, to assist in the preparation of the next country programme, due to be submitted to the Governing Council in 1991.

99. Although it had made progress in economic development, Malaysia still required UNFPA's support, and there were still areas in which past UNFPA efforts had not been able to reach the population because of the inadequate infrastructure. In addition, development had given rise to child and drug abuse and to problems related to youth and working-mothers. His delegation therefore urged UNFPA to give due consideration to those special needs.

100. UNFPA allocations to Malaysia had been reduced significantly from \$US 6.5 million in 1983 to \$US 2.1 million in 1987. It was the understanding of his delegation that, in allocating resources, UNFPA had been guided primarily by national levels of economic development. The fact that Malaysia had been able to utilize almost all the resources allocated to it under the existing country programme indicated the growing demand for UNFPA assistance. That being the case, and although Malaysia was not on the Fund's priority-country list, his Government hoped that UNFPA would consider Malaysia's needs more favourably and provide it with the appropriate allocation in the next country programme. His Government reaffirmed its full support for the work of UNFPA.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

