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Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 1 June 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES (agenda item 8)

(f) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (DP/1990/62)

1. Mrs. CAPELING-ALAKIJA (United Nations Development Fund for Women), speaking in introduction of the Administrator's report on the activities of UNIFEM (DP/1990/62), said she would begin with management questions. In 1989, 95 per cent of the activities on the work plan had been accomplished, largely as a result of increased emphasis on planning and decentralized management. The redeployment of staff had strengthened capacities in monitoring and evaluation and enhanced the provision of technical expertise in priority sectors. In addition, UNIFEM had recently implemented a computerized Project Budget Management System, which should enable it better to manage its programme in several respects.
2. The Council had approved the introduction of a partial funding approach and asked to receive an evaluation of it. According to that evaluation, UNIFEM's contribution base was broad and strong enough to permit continuation of partial funding. As for the formula to determine the reserve requirement, the consultants in charge of the evaluation had recommended applying a new formula which took into account forward commitments as well as current commitments, and which had resulted in the release of some \$2 million for programming purposes.
3. Overall, UNIFEM's delivery in 1989 had been less than expected, but with the structural changes now complete, the Fund would focus more on delivery, monitoring and evaluation in 1990-1991, and increases in delivery were to be expected. Total income, nearly \$12 million in 1989, was already rising, for countries were increasingly aware of the critical role that women played in the development process. Of particular note, among the pledges, had been significant increases by Finland, Sweden, Italy, the United Kingdom and Zaire. In addition to its significant core contribution, the Government of Canada had recently announced a \$6 million contribution over the next five years in support of UNIFEM's WID Strategy for the region of the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). Thanks to a sound fund-raising strategy, the volume of contributions should increase further in 1990 and 1991.
4. UNIFEM's mobilization efforts had also yielded positive results: at the end of 1989, there had been seven National Committees; there would be 10 new Committees by the end of 1990. In 1990, the Fund would for the first time present awards to leading personalities representing models for the integration of women in development; the awards would be regularly financed by the Noel Foundation. That new initiative should also serve to increase awareness of UNIFEM and create new financial support for the Fund.
5. Turning to the Fund's programme, she emphasized that the essential task of UNIFEM was its assistance to poor women in developing countries. Thus, UNIFEM's programmes promoted small-scale innovative activities permitting improved productivity and self-development by women, each with the potential to be multiplied many times over. The main priorities were food security, food technology, credit and micro-enterprise and, finally, work at the policy level to ensure that national planning provided for women's activities and heeded their requirements.

6. Since its establishment, the Fund had been entrusted with the mandate to serve as a catalyst for integrating women into mainstream development activities. The activities conducted since 1985 had been assessed and published (the English version was entitled "Women on the Agenda"). While giving credit to UNIFEM's achievements, the assessment also identified persisting gaps. In particular, there was still a great deal of work to be done to clarify and improve understanding of the relationships between macro-policies (structural adjustment, environmental protection, demographic policy) and their effects at the individual level, in everyday life. Experience of programming with women had long shown that development based on the primacy of economic motivations, was not an accurate reflection of reality; development action was only successful when it recognized the centrality of people. In any case, the evaluation confirmed that UNIFEM should continue in the 1990s to build on its past involvement in the WID movement and promote new strategies for enhancing the role of women in development.

7. Mr. KRAMER (Canada) noted the dynamism which UNIFEM was displaying in discharging its mandate. It was justified in not dispersing its efforts and focusing its activities on a limited number of sectors chiefly relating to the economic role of women. Thus, by developing expertise, UNIFEM would be able gradually to apply more globally, while adapting it in each case to local circumstances, the experience gained in food cycle technologies and credit programmes related to women in Africa.

8. The restructuring within UNIFEM also seemed satisfactory. However, his delegation would be glad to learn more about how the monitoring and evaluation activities were conducted and how the lessons learned were integrated into new programmes. He would also like to know how UNIFEM intended to ensure that its experience was shared with the development community at large.

9. His delegation would like to know what, in the Director's view, was the appropriate balance between core and trust fund contributions, for UNIFEM seemed to be an increasingly attractive vehicle for multi-bi financing. He would also like to know how UNIFEM chose the projects which it would assist.

10. His delegation endorsed in principle the recommendation to maintain the partial funding modality but would like further details on the subject.

11. Mr. RADE (Netherlands) noted that UNIFEM had a vital role to play in demonstrating to development funding agencies how the interests of women could best be integrated into the development process. In the field, UNIFEM was justified in giving priority to activities designed to enable women to make a greater contribution to development, but it should also endeavour to increase the benefits of development projects for women. Thus, women themselves should define what their needs were. To that end, more attention should be given to organizing women, teaching them how to form lobby groups and eliminating certain obstacles, such as violence against women, which was an impediment to their participation in economic and social development processes.

12. In project implementation, the Fund should give the greatest consideration to the views of the poorest women, those least able to make their voices heard. In his delegation's opinion, the activities UNIFEM had been conducting for several years to foster the integration of women into mainstream development activities should be given a thorough assessment at a future session of the Governing Council.

13. Mr. MALMIERCA (Cuba) said that the Fund had proved its capacity to foster more active participation by women in the development of their countries. The catalytic effect of its activities was attested in particular by the financing of certain projects.

14. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, UNIFEM's work was proving highly successful, both at the population and decision-making levels, in three priority areas: agriculture and food security, environmental protection and income and employment. In pursuing its work, the Fund should seek further to strengthen its co-operation with the other bodies of the United Nations system, in particular UNDP.

15. His delegation hoped that the partial funding modality, which the independent consultants had recommended should be maintained, would give the Fund the necessary flexibility and effectiveness. His delegation was pleased to note that the Fund's resources had increased by 35 per cent in 1989, and it hoped that donors would continue to raise the amount of their voluntary contributions.

16. Mr. LIU Lianke (China) said that UNIFEM's balance-sheet was already satisfactory, only a few years after its establishment. In 1989 alone, the Fund had initiated 33 projects, modest financially and in scope but undeniably useful. The changes made in project management and in the Fund itself should enable it to extend its work as catalyst to a wider audience.

17. But UNIFEM itself could not fully resolve the problem of integrating women in development. The entire international community must make a stronger commitment to improving the social and economic circumstances of women throughout the world and increase its support for UNIFEM. The pledges were still insufficient, and the donor countries should make higher commitments. China, which had excellent relations of co-operation with UNIFEM, was prepared further to strengthen those links.

18. Mr. SØRENSEN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that those countries attached high priority to the work of UNIFEM and that, given UNIFEM's mandate, they found document DP/1990/62 somewhat disappointing. Instead of a detailed description of the activities undertaken, the Nordic countries would have preferred a short analysis, which would have made for a more constructive discussion. However, an assessment of UNIFEM's mainstream activities was under way, and the Nordic countries looked forward to being presented with the results of that assessment at the next session of the Governing Council.

19. The establishment of long- and short-term priorities had been part of the recommendations of the Norwegian evaluation report submitted in 1987. Document DP/1990/62 did not reveal much priority-setting, and the Nordic countries hoped that in 1991 there would be a report spelling out the priorities in greater detail and establishing a clear link between them and the Fund's activities.

20. Although they had confidence in the UNIFEM Consultative Committee's overview of projects and activities, the Nordic countries were somewhat preoccupied by the geographical distribution of funds, which was far from reflecting the poverty-based distribution of UNDP funds at large. Although there might be sound reasons for that situation, the Nordic countries hoped

for a better balance in the future. They had noted with satisfaction an improvement in the co-operation between UNIFEM and other United Nations bodies, in particular UNDP. The Nordic countries underlined that a clear distinction of work between UNIFEM and UNDP/WID was of great importance for the effective work of both entities, but that the experience and lessons learned by UNIFEM should be disseminated to UNDP and other United Nations implementing agencies, which was one of UNIFEM's main tasks.

21. Ms. PRADEL (Federal Republic of Germany) expressed appreciation for the detailed report on UNIFEM's activities in 1989 and particularly welcomed the process of strategic planning, which was a useful instrument for concentrating activities and improving UNIFEM's management capacity. Her delegation strongly supported UNIFEM's opinion that, taking into account its limited financial and personal resources, its activities should be strategic, i.e. they should concentrate on innovative activities that had a multiplier effect through other agencies. UNIFEM should also seek to influence development decision-making to increase the capacity of Governments, institutions and agencies to take account of gender issues. Her delegation also supported UNIFEM's efforts further to sharpen its different regional strategies, a positive example of which was the Asia and Pacific Development Strategy. It suggested that the Fund should develop similar strategies for other regions, such as Africa. Such a clear and limited set of working priorities was necessary to avoid duplication of activities. Thus her delegation fully supported UNIFEM's efforts to strengthen its capacity to monitor, evaluate and disseminate the findings of its activities.

22. With regard to the programme "Women and Food Cycle Technologies", her delegation welcomed the importance UNIFEM had accorded to the participatory approach, the strengthening of executing agencies and the use of local technologies. However, before globally expanding that programme, UNIFEM should carefully evaluate the experience gained in Africa and that of other international organizations active in the field, such as FAO and IFAD.

23. To help women better to articulate their interests and needs, particular importance should be given to the establishment of women's organizations. In that context, UNIFEM should co-operate with non-governmental organizations from developing countries. Thus it should carefully evaluate and take into consideration the successful experiences of non-governmental organizations such as that of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh or SEWA in India.

24. Finally, her delegation encouraged UNIFEM to deepen its contacts with WID focal points in specialized agencies and would like to know more about the possibilities of co-operating with UNIFEM's newly established Knowledge Bank.

25. Mr. CHAMPASSAK (Australia) said that UNIFEM's mandate coincided with Australia's commitment to promoting the interests of women in all sectors of development. In early 1990, the Australian Government had invited the UNIFEM Director to launch the Australian UNIFEM National Committee at Brisbane. Her visit had also given Australian non-governmental organizations the opportunity to learn about UNIFEM's activities for the purpose of co-operating with UNIFEM's work in furthering the interests of women in the developing world.

26. Concerning the regional allocation of UNIFEM's funds, he expressed concern at the imbalance that worked against the Asian and Pacific region. In addition, the objectives of the project mentioned in paragraph 25 of document DP/1990/62 might have been covered in more detail, for it was the first major intervention by UNIFEM in the Pacific region, which often had difficulties achieving due attention and resources from international agencies.

27. He commended UNIFEM for its "impacts point" strategy within the context of the Asia and Pacific Development Strategy. As one of UNIFEM's aims was to disseminate information to larger donors, the establishment of a Technical Support Unit was a positive step. On the matter of project design, some inadequacies in the existing UNIFEM project document format raised implementation problems for the UNDP field offices, especially with regard to financial planning and monitoring of UNIFEM projects where there were several sources of funding. He recommended to the UNIFEM Director that a project document model similar to that of UNDP should be used. Another problem was that UNDP Resident Representatives tended to use the most junior staff to monitor UNIFEM projects and programmes. He proposed that UNIFEM should conduct "sensitization programmes" within UNDP in order to ensure that UNIFEM's programmes were given higher priority than was currently the case.

28. Australia believed that the emphasis in the African region on food and agriculture, enterprise development, etc., was valuable. However, certain projects had raised problems with the male population, which resented the success of women-oriented programmes, and it should therefore be ensured that men were informed about the programmes and were involved in complementary activities.

29. His delegation noted with great interest UNIFEM's Credit Support System (CRESS). During the recent visit to Australia by the UNDP Resident Representative in Fiji, Australia had expressed interest in a possible joint collaboration on promoting a credit/co-operative scheme for women based on the Grameen Bank model in Bangladesh. It would like to know whether CRESS was the appropriate mechanism for that scheme. Finally, his delegation intended to participate in the consideration of UNIFEM's 1990/1991 biennial budget at the forthcoming meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee.

30. Ms. FEENEY (United States of America) commended UNIFEM's process of strategic planning, particularly the fact that UNIFEM was concentrating on innovative activities which not only met women's needs for improved participation in development, but also exercised a multiplier effect through other institutions. Her delegation also commended UNIFEM's use of regional and subregional strategies developed in consultation with Governments, women's groups, and United Nations agencies. UNIFEM's support for women's access to food technologies and to credit and financing for micro-enterprises was a positive step. Co-operation with Governments and larger agencies allowed projects of far greater scope than would be possible with UNIFEM's own resources.

31. She noted with satisfaction UNIFEM's project in the Philippines and its support to the Philippines National Commission on Women.

32. UNIFEM had identified or revitalized four major objectives: (a) the role of women in private-sector development; (b) access to institutional credit and policy support; (c) informal financial markets and women; and (d) the effects

of inflation on women. The United States supported that approach, particularly the emphasis on private-sector development. It was also pleased to note that the Knowledge Bank had become operational.

33. In the framework of its co-operation with other agencies, UNIFEM had recently been working with UNDP's Environmental Action Team to promote greater recognition of women's work in that area. The United States fully supported that type of co-operation and noted that the question of women and the environment would be discussed at the 1992 session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

34. Finally, her delegation supported the new procedures introduced in strategic planning and the redeployment of staff to enhance management. Those changes should increase UNIFEM's capacity to identify, assess and disseminate the lessons learned through improved monitoring and evaluation.

35. Mr. COUSINS (United Kingdom) congratulated the UNIFEM Director and staff on their achievements during the past year and the detailed nature of the report. However, his delegation was concerned that the over-emphasis on project activities and the tendency towards tied contributions might lead to the marginalization of women's concerns, which was quite the reverse of UNIFEM's intent. Perhaps a better strategy would be to set targets for achievement and support projects which helped attain those targets. His delegation was also concerned that tied contributions now represented over 50 per cent of the contributions to general resources; such undue dependence on donor aid might prevent UNIFEM from setting priorities. It would like to know whether those contributions derived from specific requests by UNIFEM or whether the projects and accompanying funding had been offered by the respective donors.

36. His delegation welcomed the emphasis on activities which would benefit the poorest communities and would like to know what percentage of UNIFEM's project expenditure was spent in the least developed countries.

37. On the subject of credit, he commended the recognition of informal financial markets and was pleased to note that each of the credit projects included an element of negotiation with the formal sector, which should in the long term promote an increased awareness of women's requirements and potential and improve their access to conventional credit sources.

38. He noted that the results of the study on the effects of inflation on funds providing concessional credit facilities would have an impact on the future management of such funds. Regarding the evaluation of activities, it welcomed the emphasis on identifying critical variables for sustainable development. Provision of relevant documentation to Governments and other funding sources would be useful for future planning and would reinforce UNIFEM's credibility as a source of reference for women's issues.

39. His delegation strongly supported the proposals for the new partial funding formula, which seemed to provide a sound operational system.

40. Mr. ISMAIL (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) welcomed UNIFEM's efforts to attain the objectives corresponding to its mandate. He supported the role which UNIFEM was playing in Africa in implementing of the Lagos Plan of Action and

the United Nations Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD), as well as its efforts to apply the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. He endorsed its role as co-ordinator with other competent international agencies and supported its working methods. He hoped UNIFEM would take account of the particular aspects of women's situation according to region as well as the different traditions.

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya approved of the ongoing assessment of UNIFEM's activities, including those conducted by other agencies. It had done much to promote the participation of women in development in all sectors of the country, where women held high-level posts in various fields.

2. Mr. OLANIYI (Nigeria) expressed appreciation for the report on UNIFEM's activities, identified with the views and concerns expressed in the report and assured UNIFEM of its support and co-operation. He would like to draw attention to the Fund's support to strengthening regional, subregional and national institutional capacity for greater integration of women in development programming and planning. He noted with satisfaction the recent UNIFEM mission to Nigeria with a view to increasing its technical assistance to Nigeria in the coming biennium.

3. UNIFEM had made significant contributions towards meeting the objectives of UNPAAERD. In particular, it had been entrusted with preparing two progress reports presenting the views of a number of multilateral agencies involved in ID issues.

4. Ms. BWANGA-BUGONZI (Observer for Uganda) said that UNIFEM's focus on promoting the participation of African women in scientific and technical fields was long overdue. Her delegation would appreciate the immediate initiation of preparatory work in that area, since the government body responsible for that field was still not adequately experienced and equipped. Women's accessibility to institutional credit was acknowledged to be minimal, due in particular to lack of collateral, illiteracy and various cultural problems.

5. UNIFEM should put greater emphasis on needs assessment, delivery and follow-up. Her delegation welcomed the plan to focus more on the integration of environmental and women's issues, for women were the major actors in that area. Providing greater support for women's participation in national planning was paramount, and UNIFEM should stimulate understanding of women's issues by ministries. Above all, it should be recognized that while women played an important role as providers of food and managers of the home in particular, far too many of them were still illiterate and insufficiently informed. Raising women's literacy levels would go a long way towards combating disease, poverty and underdevelopment and increasing women's participation in sustainable development.

6. Her delegation recommended active national participation in women's projects and more use of local experts, who knew the most about the cultural beliefs and practices of the target groups, which could help reduce delays in project implementation. Finally, it should be noted that in Uganda, the situation was politically ripe for promoting women's activities.

47. Mr. URBINA FUENTES (Observer for Mexico) said that greater attention should be given to the four strategic sectors proposed by UNIFEM than to policies. His delegation believed that within those operational sectors, greater consideration should be given to research, training, programming institutionalization and the data system.
48. The population variable should also be incorporated into development planning, and women's participation should be taken into account in the elaboration and implementation of population programmes.
49. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) welcomed the role played by the United Nations in promoting the status of women, a role which would contribute without any doubt to helping women participate more actively in their countries development. Pakistan had made regular contributions to UNIFEM, for a total amount of some \$85,000 in 1989. For 1990, it had pledged PRs 125,000. Pakistan would continue to participate in United Nations activities for women.
50. Mr. EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) noted with satisfaction that UNIFEM was emphasizing its activities in Africa, a continent that was undergoing an economic crisis of unprecedented seriousness. Moreover, it was in Nairobi that the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women had been adopted and that the summit meetings among African Heads of State and Government had also discussed that aspect of regional problems.
51. His delegation was satisfied with the Fund's sound financial situation and expressed its gratitude to the many donors. It took due note of UNIFEM's efforts to mobilize resources through co-financing arrangements and of the projects financed in Africa. It would like to see UNIFEM continue to favour programmes rather than projects. UNIFEM should also continue, during the fifth programming cycle, to make foreseeable, long-term contributions to country programmes as it had done during the fourth cycle, so that countries would have advance knowledge of the amount of resources they would have available.
52. He welcomed the fact that the negative effects of the adjustment programmes implemented by most of the African States had been taken into account in UNIFEM's report. The reference to the Abuja Conference in the report was also positive.
53. Mr. NZENGEYA (Zaire) stated that the world's women represented a significant potential that should not be neglected when development programmes were drawn up. Experience gained in industry, agriculture and other sectors by women in the developed world should be shared with women in the developing world, and UNIFEM had an important role to play in that respect.
54. Access by women to credit facilities and subsidies for conducting projects in the small and medium-sized enterprise sector was an important step towards their effective integration into the development process.
55. Zaire was fully in favour of UNIFEM's activities, and it pledged to co-operate very closely with UNIFEM to strengthen the role of Zairian women in the various sectors of economic and social development in Zaire.

56. Mrs. CAPELING-ALAKIJA (United Nations Development Fund for Women) said that in a body such as UNIFEM which was very active and was also going through a period of transition and change, new elements were constantly arising and it was not always possible to mention them in the documents under consideration, which were often prepared long before the date of the meetings for which they were intended. She had attempted to fill such gaps in her introductory statement.

57. UNIFEM had indeed set priorities and identified four sectors considered to be of strategic importance for women. It would concentrate its activities on those sectors. UNIFEM's mandate obliged it to take into account new problems of interest to women as and when they arose. Since the importance of women was being acknowledged increasingly and since the major financing bodies were increasing their aid, UNIFEM would be able to devote itself to previously-neglected sectors.

58. Regarding programming methodology, she had been pleased to note that the members of the Governing Council approved of the participatory approach and to hear the representative of the Netherlands stress the fact that women should be helped to organize. However, that would require resources, experience and time.

59. UNIFEM worked extensively with Governments, but also with non-governmental organizations whose help was at times a decisive factor. As the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany had noted, their contribution to UNIFEM was significant.

60. The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit had been established because it had been realized that UNIFEM was not devoting enough human and financial resources to those functions. The Unit would be in charge of approving UNIFEM projects. Monitoring and evaluation, therefore, were a priority.

61. In reply to the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, she said that there had been an evaluation of the methods used by UNIFEM to give women access to food cycle technologies and that the global programme had been prepared on the basis of its findings.

62. The Knowledge Bank would also be evaluated, in co-operation with UNDP's Division of Management Information Services, but in the interim a recent, up-to-date document on the Knowledge Bank was available to interested delegations.

63. UNIFEM had reached the stage where its priority was to mobilize funds intended for the core of the resources. It used multilateral arrangements for certain of its projects dealing with a particular priority sector when it identified a multilateral donor with identical priorities. Since UNIFEM was not yet well known, that type of arrangement enabled it to establish a relationship with such donors, in the hope that it would translate into future contributions to UNIFEM's core.

64. UNIFEM's policy was to distribute the core of its resources equally among the regions, giving priority to the least developed countries. Since it did not have the means fully to meet the enormous needs of women, UNIFEM had chosen a strategic approach and decided to act in sectors where it believed it could stimulate the main sources of assistance to contribute more resources.

As for the proportion of resources allocated to Asia, it was true that in absolute terms there were more poor women in Asia, and particularly in Bangladesh, than in all of Africa, but once again, needs were not the Fund's only criterion. In 1990, the resources allocated to Asia would be equivalent to those assigned to other regions.

65. Mr. CABACTULAN (Philippines) said that, with regard to the distribution of resources, he had not found the replies of the Director of UNIFEM to be either very complete or very satisfactory. Needs could not be excluded as distribution criteria, and he hoped that in the future greater consideration would be given to the multitudes of disadvantaged living in Asia, who included many women. However, his delegation paid a tribute to UNIFEM for its efforts on behalf of women, which were clearly attested by the activities and projects conducted in the Philippines.

66. He believed that partial funding should continue in the framework of the new method chosen, with regular adjustments of the amount of the reserve fund, at least twice a year, in order that the volume of available funds should follow the general development of commitments during the year.

67. The CHAIRMAN noted that the general debate on the item was concluded; if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council authorized the Drafting Group to prepare a draft decision on the subject.

68. It was so decided.

(g) TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(i) REPORT OF EXPERT COMMITTEE (DP/1990/77)

69. Mr. CHADHA (Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries), reviewing the principal TCDC activities conducted by the Special Unit in 1989 and 1990, noted that TCDC was becoming firmly established: 12 countries in all regions of the world had requested - or were currently receiving - aid from the Special Unit. In the framework of its assistance activities, the Unit had encouraged countries in so far as possible to organize each of their activities around a particular sector, for it knew from experience that project quality improved as a result. It had also attempted to help developing countries share with each other, at the interregional level, the technical capacities they had in certain fields, and it hoped to expand that type of transfer as part of a workshop to be held during 1990. Tanzania, for example, had asked the Special Unit to help it organize a programme planning operation at the interregional level; thus, in December 1989, 206 projects had been formulated at Arusha.

70. In May 1990, the Special Unit had helped the major non-governmental organizations in the developing countries to meet at New Delhi to set up 60 or so TCDC projects. Generally speaking, in consultation with UNIFEM, it had contributed to the preparation or financing of several TCDC projects relating to women.

71. What was important in that respect was that a large number of developing countries were prepared to help each other, under conditions set by themselves, for the purposes of implementing and following up development activities, and United Nations bodies intervened only if necessary to help

them formulate projects or provide them with seed money. Requests to the Special Unit for assistance had doubled or even tripled in comparison with 1987, and he welcomed the success thus achieved by TCDC activities.

72. Regarding the report of the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts (DP/1990/77), he pointed out that the High-level Committee had entrusted the Group of Experts with the formidable task of identifying the impediments to technical co-operation among developing countries and the changes to be introduced to the rules, regulations and procedures of the governing bodies of United Nations agencies in order to overcome those difficulties. Members of the Special Unit had acted as the secretariat of the meeting, in which the representatives of certain specialized agencies and several UNDP bodies had participated; several agencies had submitted documents at the request of the Special Unit. The experts, who had numbered 12, had done excellent work: they had succeeded in simplifying a number of concepts and had dealt with certain issues with great insight.

73. Because the meeting had been held late, the Administrator had not been able to present the Governing Council with a comprehensive report detailing the observations of United Nations bodies on the recommendations of the Group of Experts; he did, however, intend to discuss that subject with the representatives of those bodies at the meeting of their TCDC co-ordination centres, to be held at Geneva on 5 June. He invited delegations to take the opportunity provided by that meeting to establish contact with the co-ordination centres and attend the forthcoming demonstration of the Information Referral System for TCDC (INRES-South), which could help them determine which agencies among the 4,000 identified by the System in more than 100 developing countries would be in a position to implement TCDC projects.

74. Mr. LIMA (Brazil) recalled that Brazil had been one of the countries to request the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts, to which it had sent an expert. The meeting had proved most fruitful, both with regard to the in-depth assessment of the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and for the specific measures proposed to strengthen, improve and increase TCDC activities within the United Nations system. He endorsed the report of the Group of Experts and particularly the recommendations in paragraph 69, which described the roles that United Nations bodies should play in formulating and implementing TCDC projects.

75. Mr. MALMIERCA (Cuba) noted that Cuba, which attached great importance to technical co-operation among developing countries, had participated in all the meetings on that subject since the Buenos Aires Conference in 1978, and quite recently, in that of the Group of Governmental Experts. The Cuban Government firmly supported the recommendations of the Group of Experts, in particular the measures aimed at sensitizing the parties concerned, improving information on TCDC, establishing co-ordination centres or strengthening existing centres and allocating greater financial resources to TCDC activities. Similarly, it supported all the activities conducted by the Special Unit on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, in particular its initiative to hold an annual meeting of TCDC co-ordination centres before the ordinary sessions of the Governing Council.

76. Mr. LIU Lianke (China) said that China unreservedly supported TCDC, which could only foster the progress and self-sufficiency of developing countries, and was prepared to co-operate with all countries fully to implement the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

77. In 1989, the Special Unit had organized various intergovernmental meetings, where many developing countries had been able to come to an agreement on a set of co-operation activities, on the basis of their needs and special capacities. Those meetings had done much to revitalize TCDC. Nevertheless, there was still a gap between what had been done and what should be done to strengthen that type of co-operation. To fill the gap, therefore, the Special Unit should attempt to remedy the lack of information on existing needs and capacities, continue and strengthen its specific activities and remain independent. For its part, the UNDP Governing Council should increase the component of the Programme's special resources in order to strengthen and expand TCDC activities.

78. Mr. ALGAN (Observer for Turkey), referring to a TCDC experiment in Turkey, said that at a meeting held in April 1987 in that country Turkey had set up, together with various developing countries, 247 TCDC projects, dealing in particular with consultation services, study programmes and internships. For two thirds of those projects, Turkey was the "donor" country, and for one third, the "beneficiary" country. Despite delays in implementing some of those projects and the difficulties encountered, Turkey believed in the need for and usefulness of technical co-operation among developing countries, which should be maintained, for it contributed to mutual understanding among those countries.

79. Mr. VARADACHARY (India) said that nothing could better favour the self-sufficiency of developing countries than TCDC activities. He congratulated the Special Unit on its excellent work. Nevertheless, the use of TCDC remained quite modest and basically covered short-term activities. It was therefore important for United Nations development agencies to allocate a larger proportion of their resources to TCDC projects and strengthen their system of information on that form of co-operation, as suggested by the Group of Governmental Experts. The Special Unit should also receive wider support and greater financing to be able to meet the ever-increasing requests for assistance from developing countries. He reminded the members of the Governing Council that, under General Assembly resolution 42/180, the organizations of the United Nations development system should take the necessary measures to enable each developing country to have the choice of executing each project on technical co-operation. Although it was urgent to take such action, consideration should also be given to the cost and complexity of the technology to be transferred and greater attention paid to non-traditional techniques.

80. Ms. COURSON (France) said that France was strongly in favour of TCDC, a form of co-operation which should be an integral part of national, regional and interregional programmes, for it offered the developing countries a further way of making progress by enabling them to pool their experience and technical capacities. It was unfortunate that, 12 years after the launching of TCDC by the Buenos Aires Conference, that type of co-operation had not taken root, due to lack of awareness and information, as indicated by the report of the Group of Governmental Experts. It was time for United Nations bodies to adopt a pragmatic approach towards TCDC in order to bring it out of

the experimental phase. However, it was for the developing countries to establish, within their national administrations, an atmosphere and mechanisms favourable to TCDC in order to promote that kind of technical assistance. As for the developed countries, they also had a role to play in that respect, for example by financing "triangular" operations organized around the development of regional or subregional institutions. On the whole, she endorsed the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts and hoped that they would be implemented by the different parties concerned, in order for TCDC to become a common form of technical assistance during the fifth programming cycle.

The summary record of the second part of the meeting appears as document DP/1990/SR.18/Add.1.
