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GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thirty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 35th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 15 June 1990, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

later: Mr. HAMADZIRIPI (Zimbabwe)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES (agenda item 7) (continued)  
(DP/1990/56 and Add.1-3)

1. Mr. MALMIERCA (Cuba) said that his delegation had taken note of the wide-ranging activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) in 1989.
2. He expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the efforts being made by the Department to improve its efficiency and, in particular to limit costs. His delegation believed that, DTCD could provide valuable assistance to Governments on the execution of specific projects. The Department should continue to have as one of its objectives the development of human resources. Another DTCD activity was the promotion of TCDC which should be continued in the future. The Department had also worked effectively to ensure that women played a more active part in the development process.
3. In conclusion, his delegation considered that in the future DTCD, together with other bodies in the United Nations system, such as UNCTAD, UNEP and the Centre on Transnational Corporations, could do much to improve the situation of developing countries. In its opinion, the Department therefore deserved the support of the Council.
4. Mr. SALEEM (Pakistan) said that his delegation appreciated the important role played by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development in support of the developing countries. It was reassuring that the international community remained committed to the principles and objectives of technical co-operation as an effective means of enhancing human welfare. The Department should seek to make effective use of the knowledge, competence and national assistance services available in assigning staff to technical assistance projects.
5. In an environment of unfavourable macro-economic trends and major shortfalls in resources, technical co-operation was confronted with challenges that called for new approaches. In view of the various levels of development of developing countries, technical co-operation would have to enhance flexibility without compromising traditions and basic principles.
6. Miss DOHERTY (United Kingdom) said that her delegation was impressed by the extensive range of expertise which the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) could offer to the United Nations technical co-operation system. It also welcomed the vigorous way in which DTCD had pursued an ever expanding workload over a wide range of activities, while containing its staff complement. It noted from paragraph 11 of document DP/1990/56 that the introduction of micro-computer technology had facilitated the containment of staff/ratios, which should also lead to increased efficiency on the exchange of data and information in processing and implementing projects.
7. Her delegation also noted the increased use of consultants by DTCD. It would welcome information on the effects of using consultants and would like to know: whether there had been an increase in the operational cost of projects; whether the Department had achieved reductions in the Professional staff complement within DTCD as a result of using external specialists;

whether there had been any net changes in the administrative section to cover recruitment and contracting of external consultants; whether recruitment methods were based on competitive tendering; and whether consultants were used for project evaluation. With regard to figure 4 on page 9 of the document, she asked whether the sharp increase in the "efficiency" rating since 1987 was due to the increased use of consultants, and whether the employment of consultants had resulted from the wider range of demands placed upon DTCD because no permanent pool of expertise existed for those specializations.

8. Noting that the activities of DTCD had extended to management services, her delegation would welcome an assurance that there was consultation between UNDP and DTCD to ensure that there was no overlap in both the in-house expertise in each organization and the projects undertaken. That would also apply to the provision of demography expertise to UNFPA.

9. Her delegation recognized the value of DTCD's participation in consultations on mid-term country programming reviews in which their assessment of progress of projects they were executing in the country programmes would facilitate the review and provide guidance on projections. Her delegation was pleased to note the increase in evaluation activities and greater emphasis given to qualitative aspects. With regard to paragraph 42, her delegation considered that government commitment to ensure sustainability should be established from initial project appraisal and be continually reviewed to ensure that adequate provisions were planned and provided at appropriate stages of the project development until, and after, the project was phased into the regular activities of the responsible government department. The attendant back-up of training, and budgetary and manpower planning was an essential part of capacity-building but also needed to be considered at project level.

10. Her Government had been pleased to participate in the National Recruitment Service Workshop in October 1989, which it regarded as one example of capacity-building. It would welcome DTCD's report on the success rate of the workshop in facilitating the development of the national recruitment services in the participating countries.

11. Mr. KELLAND (Denmark), speaking on a point of order, noted that four meetings were to be held concurrently that day. While recognizing the difficult task facing the Bureau, he wished to point out that the practice of scheduling concurrent meetings created serious difficulties for delegations. In that connection, he thought that it would be appropriate to hold week-end meetings as well.

12. Mr. HAEMMERLI (Secretary of the Council) said that the pattern of meetings of the various bodies had closely followed the timetable set out in document DP/1990/L.4/Corr.2. In the following week, it would be necessary to convene concurrently meetings on the fifth programming cycle and agency support costs. Otherwise, it would be difficult for the Council to meet its deadline. There was no possibility of holding weekend meetings at the Palais unless all the related operational costs were paid.

13. Mr. GOPINATHAN (India) said that at the end of the Council's afternoon meeting the previous day, the representative of Cuba, who was presiding over the informal consultations, had consulted with the members and it had been agreed that parallel meetings would be held on Friday, 15 June, in order to complete the list of speakers on a particular cluster of issues.

14. Mr. PENZIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said his delegation was gratified to note that the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) continued to be the Secretariat's basic operational organ in the field of technical co-operation. In 1989, DTCD had carried out its largest programme and his delegation welcomed its efforts to adjust its activities in light of the changing needs of developing countries. In order to avoid duplication, it was necessary to define clearly the exact areas of competence of all involved.
15. His delegation welcomed the importance given by the Department to providing assistance in financial planning and management to African countries.
16. His country had traditionally co-operated with the Department in many areas, mainly in training national personnel. It thought that the Department should play a more active role in connection with the assistance provided by other bodies and programmes. His delegation was aware that that did not depend on the DTCD alone and considered that other entities and programmes of the United Nations system should rely to a greater extent on the Department with regard to its area of specialization. The Department was adapting itself to the changing requirements in the area of technical co-operation.
17. Mr. QUALI (Observer for Algeria) said that the Governing Council should examine the trend whereby multilateral financing bodies were being entrusted with the execution of projects, so that it could decide whether that trend was in conformity with current practices in respect of project implementation. His delegation had the impression that the capacity of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development was under-utilized.
18. Mr. BENAÏSSA (Director, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development) assured members that the Department would continue to extend its services to developing countries.
19. With regard to the comments made concerning the Department's capacity-building activities he said that in 1989, DTCD had organized for the first time a training session for nationals in the recruitment process, an exercise which it hoped to continue.
20. The Department would have an evaluation of the National Recruitment Service workshop to be held in September 1990. The conclusion drawn from that experience would be used in organizing similar activities.
21. With regard to the participation of DTCD in programmatic exercises and the need to maintain and utilize to the fullest its expertise in UNDP's areas of competence, the Department stood ready to extend its co-operation and had successfully done so in the past. In fact, those exercises were based on projects which were already supported by DTCD. For example, the Department had about 25 planning projects in Africa, many of which constituted the basis for the preparation of NATCAPS and donor conference meetings.
22. As to the comments made by Poland and the USSR, the Department had initiated a review of some sectors in East European countries. It co-operated closely with the regional economic commissions. For the first time, it had integrated technical advisory services that existed in the United Nations Secretariat and included the regional commissions in a single document which would be circulated to all interested parties. It had also organized a number

of activities with regional commissions, in particular seminars on computers in 1989. He agreed that DTCD's relations with the regional commissions should be closer since they covered the same areas and the Department therefore required some support from them.

23. The data bank served as a tool which DTCD could use in order to understand the causes and weaknesses of some of its projects and as a means of overcoming them in the future. When the exercise was completed and the results more meaningful, the Department would be able to share them with interested parties.

24. The Department maintained a roster of experts, companies and institutions and welcomed any new sources. As mentioned at a previous meeting, some of the limitations faced by the Department in regard to procurement from developing countries was that its roster did not provide sufficient information on companies in Eastern Europe, the developing countries or major donor countries.

25. As to the question on management services, he said that there was no duplication of effort since the Department's action was mainly in the technical field.

26. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed that the Drafting Group might begin framing a draft decision on agenda item 7.

27. It was so decided.

OTHERS FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES (agenda item 8) (continued)

(b) FOCAL POINT FOR SHORT-TERM ADVISORY SERVICES (DP/1990/58)

28. Mr. DRAPER (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme), introducing his report on the sub-item (DP/1990/58), said that the short-term advisory services (STAS) had been in operation as a pilot programme for five years and had grown steadily, spurred on by an improved climate for business in the developing countries. It had achieved solid results and broad geographic recognition. It was time to regularize that pilot programme and to assist companies both private and public, to utilize fully the resources STAS had to offer.

29. The report detailed the findings of the evaluation of the (STAS) programme carried out in December 1988. Based on that evaluation, the Administration had formulated its strategy for the programme's future. In order to grow and serve the short-term expertise needs of the enterprises of developing countries, STAS had to strengthen its communications with the local business community and broaden the range and diversity of countries from which it drew its advisers. In the past year, the STAS unit had worked to improve the areas of communications and supplier country diversity. Progress had been made but more work remained to be done.

30. To achieve better communications at the local level in developing countries, STAS intended to introduce local volunteer representatives in up to 30 countries over the next two years. They would be local business people who would bring to the job an intimate knowledge of the local business

community and its needs. They would volunteer their time, receiving only a small budget to pay for expenses. This scheme had been introduced in Indonesia in January 1990 and the initial results were very promising.

31. In an effort to achieve broader diversity in respect of countries supplying STAS advisers, steps would be taken to broaden the range of countries from which the programme recruited advisers. That would include utilizing volunteer industry specialists with broad international experience at Headquarters to assist with recruitment throughout the world in areas such as quality control, export marketing, packaging, etc. One such expert from the industrial design field had been volunteering his time to the unit over the past year with extremely good results. His work in India, for example, had led to the receipt of more than 60 inquiries from Indian firms and institutes over the past six months. Many of those had resulted in concrete requests for which STAS was currently recruiting advisers.

32. In the coming months, STAS would be playing a major role in the overall programme of assistance to Poland. In India, STAS advisers would be assisting the long depressed jute industry to develop new products and establish export marketing programmes. In Mexico and El Salvador, STAS would be helping the metals, garment and auto parts industries to become more efficient and competitive in the international marketplace. In Africa, STAS would be continuing its assistance programmes to the garment and handicraft industries in Lesotho. The prospects for STAS were exciting both in the near term and for the future.

33. The evaluation team recommended that STAS should become an operational part of UNDP as soon as possible. He fully supported that recommendation and recommended to the Council that STAS should be made an operational part of UNDP from 1 July 1990.

34. Mr. GRAHAM (United States of America) recalled his delegation had indicated in 1989 that the United States could support the short-term advisory services programme to the degree that it made an effective and efficient contribution to UNDP's provision of technical assistance. However, his delegation had wished prior to the establishment of STAS on a permanent basis, to study the evaluation carried out on it after four and a half years of its experimental life. In response to his delegation's request, the Secretariat had made the evaluation available to requesting members and his delegation had had an opportunity to review it together with additional information.

35. It was clear that the demand for STAS services was growing, with more than 200 advisers from 23 countries having undertaken missions to 51 countries by the end of 1989. His delegation understood that the pace of STAS activities had continued to increase during the first quarter of 1990 and it was pleased to learn from the evaluation that the average cost per STAS project had decreased as projects had increased. It appeared that the programme made a useful contribution to UNDP's private sector initiatives.

36. His delegation noted from the evaluation, however, that there were still growing pains, including a high rate of cancellation or withdrawal of requests, and the need to reduce the response time to requests. It also noted that demand for the programme had been less than anticipated.

37. With regard to whether STAS should have linkages to other programmes, paragraph 14 of document DP/1990/58 mentioned STAS contacts with the regional bureaux and specialized agencies. His delegation would welcome information on the results of those contacts. It would also appreciate a similar elaboration on paragraphs 12 and 13, which discussed steps taken to activate demand, reduce response time to requests, and reduce cancellations.

38. As indicated in its statement on the revised 1990-1991 budget estimates in the Budgetary and Finance Committee, his Government could support the Administrator's proposal that STAS should be made a permanent part of UNDP from 1 July 1990, that funding and staffing for the programme should be provided under programme support services at current levels, and that above a certain level, funding should come from IPFs.

39. In conclusion, he requested that an evaluation of the impact of the programme should be prepared for consideration by the Council at its thirty-ninth session.

40. Mr. POWER (Canada) said that it was time to regularize the short-term advisory services (STAS) to enable it to grow. His delegation believed that STAS had great potential and that it would be possible to build on the experience achieved to date. His delegation strongly supported the programme and thought that it should be made an operational part of UNDP.

41. Mrs. ZACHOROWSKA (Poland) noted that the short-term advisory services (STAS) had provided Governments within a relatively short period of time with senior experts and high-level specialized consultancy in a broad range of areas. Given the increasing demand on behalf of client organizations for professional services at minimum cost, her delegation saw the need for the continued growth of STAS and expansion of its activities, through initiatives already undertaken.

42. During the current year, her country expected to become a beneficiary of the STAS-type service. The experts to be provided under the programme would hopefully assist, in the first instance, private, small- and medium-sized enterprises in restructuring their operations and in adapting to a market-oriented economy. That was the task facing her Government, and it would require special attention and assistance. She was therefore pleased to see the support given by the Administrator to STAS, which was of undoubted benefit to the developing countries.

43. Miss DOHERTY (United Kingdom) said that her delegation was in favour of incorporating short-term advisory services (STAS) into permanent UNDP operations. It would like to see STAS strategy reflect country priorities by involving the private sector in the development process. That should be the starting point for any expansion schemes to promote STAS in recipient countries; attention must be focused primarily on those priority sectors that were appropriate for private sector involvement.

44. Her delegation requested further information on the percentage of expenditure to be channelled into promotion. There should be adequate guidelines to ensure that the major part of STAS expenditure was provided for implementation, and a phased promotion programme should be arranged in selected countries where private sector involvement was a priority of the country programme.



45. The promotional aspect also included an expansion of sources of expertise. That was a little surprising, inasmuch as annex II listed 33 organizations already participating, as against a total placement of 19 experts in 1989.

46. Her delegation would like to know whether further exploration was possible on promoting STAS through trade ministries and chambers of commerce and enabling voluntary promoters to draw upon such links. Admittedly, an effective system of trade associations might not exist in some developing countries. Promoters should not be given open-ended contracts, but should be offered a fixed six-month period to publicize and make contacts under the guidance of the resident representatives, who would determine target areas for each country.

47. Mr. EL-FERJANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his country had attempted, unsuccessfully, to obtain STAS programme services, and his delegation therefore inquired what procedures had to be followed in order to receive such assistance; how the programme could help the private sector in the developing countries; what the financial impact of STAS would be if it became part of UNDP; what the sources of financing were and what would be the impact on IPFs; what the relationship would be between STAS and United Nations Volunteers; and what role the resident representatives would play.

48. Mr. MATTES (Programme Officer, Short-Term Advisory Services), replying to the question as to what was being undertaken to reduce response time, said that STAS was drawing upon the organizations listed in the annex, as well as on an informal network of individuals, many of them volunteers who had contacts with international organizations and international companies. That helped cut down on response time in many cases.

49. With regard to the question on cancellations, companies requesting assistance were asked to be as explicit as possible, and resident representatives were attempting to clarify needs. A detailed request form was currently in use.

50. Concerning country priorities, STAS was working closely with the resident representatives, who were asked to discuss with the private sector and Governments priority areas for STAS work. That effort, begun in the past year, would be intensified.

51. The awareness campaign would have to be introduced in phases; clearly, it could not be initiated in some 120 countries at the same time. The programme would be launched in those countries with the greatest potential, with voluntary staff addressing chambers of commerce, ministries of industry and business groups. The advisers would not be employed on open-ended contracts, but on a six-month basis.

52. With regard to a question on how to gain access to STAS experts, the procedure was simple: the interested country applied to the resident representative, who passed on the request to STAS.

53. As to financing, STAS was attempting to make do with the resources allocated. Additional funds would be needed for local volunteers.

54. The relationship between STAS and United Nations Volunteers was a complementary one. STAS advisers were employed for up to three months, and UNV ensured the follow-up thereafter.

55. Mr. Hamadziripi (Zimbabwe) took the Chair.

(c) UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT  
(DP/1990/59)

(d) UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION  
(DP/1990/59; DP/NRE/PROJECTS/REC/12-14)

56. Mr. AJELLO (Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Special Activities) said that UNFSTD and UNRFNRE had been established because at the time, it had been considered that the action needed to develop science and technology as well as natural resources exploration in the developing countries could not be undertaken successfully within the existing structures and resources and that new structures and additional resources were necessary.

57. It was unrealistic to assume that those activities could be absorbed by UNDP regional bureaux and financed from UNDP central resources; developing countries had urgent short-term needs and could not invest their meagre resources in projects that would only yield results in the long term. Furthermore, in natural resources exploration, project costs and the likelihood of failure were so high that no developing country could undertake such activities with resources from the indicative planning figures (IPFs). A number of projects financed by the IPFs had such components, but high-risk promotional activities and innovative pilot projects would have little chance of being carried through to a successful conclusion in the absence of an ad hoc structure with its own resources.

58. If the donor countries regarded those activities as essential, they must guarantee at least the minimum of resources needed to enable the two Funds to work effectively and profitably. He had raised the question at the thirty-sixth session of the Governing Council, but his letter to the members of the Governing Council immediately following that session had gone unanswered. Consequently, the Administrator had decided to implement a plan to restructure the Funds on the basis of existing resources, but that could not solve the problem for which a substantial increase in contributions to the Funds' central resources was required. Currently, the activity and structure of UNFSTD and UNRFNRE were being reduced to a minimum pending a change in attitude on the part of the donors.

59. Three options had been explored for the future activities and structure of the Funds: incorporating their activities in the UNDP programme; ensuring a minimum mass for their smooth functioning through the Special Programme Resources (SPR) or a similar mechanism; and significantly reducing their administrative expenses, bringing it into line with the resources allocated, regardless of how inadequate they might be.

60. The first option had been ruled out for reasons already explained. The second option would have involved major changes in the institutional framework, which for the time being had been considered inappropriate. Thus, the third option had been selected.

61. The Administrator suggested that programming and programme supervision of the two Funds should be handled by a joint unit staffed by a Director, an Assistant Director and one Professional Officer, assisted by support staff and two technical advisers, one in the field of minerals and the other in science and technology. The two advisers would, over a period of two to three years, be shifted to UNDP's Technical Advisory Division (TAD). The net effect of such shifts would be to reduce the number of professional posts from 11 to 5 and the number of support service posts from 13 to 8, total staff being reduced from 24 to 13.
62. With regard to UNFSTD, project implementation was already in the hands of executing agencies. UNRFNRE implemented its own projects directly. The Administrator would assure that work on those projects would not be interrupted and that the interests of the developing countries concerned would be fully safeguarded. In the future, new projects financed by UNRFNRE would follow the usual procedures.
63. Mr. APUNTE FRANCO (Observer for Ecuador) said that UNFSTD and UNRFNRE were of paramount importance for developing countries. Only a timely contribution by the developed countries, which were currently experiencing a period of economic prosperity, would enable the Funds to carry out their vital work.
64. Mr. KITAGAWA (Japan) said that the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration had brought remarkable benefits to developing countries. Eight mineral exploration projects had led to important discoveries, the value of which amounted to \$1.5 billion at current prices. UNRFNRE had contributed significantly to the self-reliance of a number of developing countries, giving them the means to earn hard currency.
65. It had originally been hoped that UNRFNRE would revolve with the profits of discoveries. However, with annual contributions as low as \$2.5 million, it was no surprise that it could not function as intended. The Fund could begin to revolve if it reached an annual level of project expenditure of about \$10 million for a period of 20 to 25 years. His Government had continuously supported UNRFNRE and encouraged other donors to increase their contributions so that it could function as originally intended.
66. Japan welcomed the suggestion to merge the administrations of the two Funds as an economy measure, but their identities should be maintained. In particular, it favoured continuing UNRFNRE's current operational arrangements and regulations, as that Fund was unique in the United Nations system.
67. Miss DOHERTY (United Kingdom) said that her Government had always regarded science and technology as a central part of the general development process and had therefore been opposed to the concept of separate funds for science and technology for development and for natural resources exploration. Her delegation appreciated the work done by the Funds, and thought that the close focus on specific areas was right, underlining in that context technology information and the upgrading of existing technology.
68. Although it would prefer to see those activities as an integral part of the country programme, if the Governing Council decided otherwise, her Government would support the steps taken by the Administrator to reorganize the administration of the Funds to bring them into line with the level of available resources.

69. The United Kingdom was in favour of a joint administration with an overall reduction of staffing and welcomed the arrangements for access to technical expertise through the Technical Advisory Division (TAD) which would provide a closer link with mainstream UNDP activities in those sectors. Her Government would support any further developments to provide greater co-ordination between the activities of the Funds and the priorities of the relevant country programmes. The involvement with TAD should also facilitate the recognition of other thematic priorities, such as environmental issues. Addressing the current challenges of environmental degradation through the application of appropriate science and technology might highlight the potential relevance of the Funds' activities to general development issues. Her Government also supported arrangements for making natural resources exploration project implementation the responsibility of the executing agency. It wondered whether the Funds would have a responsibility for assessing, data collection or evaluating follow-up activities to determine the effectiveness of the Funds.

70. It would be useful for a report to be submitted in 1992 to the thirty-ninth session of the Governing Council to ensure that the new arrangements had been effective.

71. Mr. MacARTHUR (United States of America) said that his delegation supported the decision to make the Funds more cost-efficient by combining their functions under one unit and reducing staff. If contributions to the Funds remained static and well below the levels essential for their continuing as separate entities, the United States would support further consideration of whether and how they might be incorporated into regular UNDP programming. While in favour of the application of science and technology for development, his Government believed that those activities could best be handled by regular UNDP funds, bilateral resources and the private sector.

72. His delegation endorsed the Administrator's recommendation for Governing Council approval of a project concerning exploration for placer gold in the Suches area of Bolivia and took note of the reports on mineral exploration in Honduras and Peru.

73. Mrs. ZACHOROWSKA (Poland) stressed the importance of the activities offered by UNFSTD. Although the co-operation between Poland and the Fund had begun only a year ago, a wide range of activities had provided Poland with a reservoir of experience, advice and new ideas. The strong support for the Fund proved that there was a constant demand for relevant management of science and technology at governmental level, proper utilization of research results and the creation of an environment for starting small businesses. Her Government expressed its appreciation to the Fund for initiating the first business incubator in Poland. That experimental project was part of Poland's current economic reform programme, which focused on the need for assistance to small- and medium-size companies. The pilot project would begin operating at the beginning of 1992 and would serve as a model for others throughout Poland. In conclusion, she wished to underscore the fact that UNFSTD activities served as a catalyst in helping to launch initiatives with follow-up potential; her delegation was in favour of strengthening the Fund and expanding its activities.

74. Mrs. VALLARINO (Observer for Panama) said that the two Funds had not received the attention they deserved, despite their vital importance for the developing countries. UNFSTD and UNRFNRE should not be merged, because that would limit their sphere of action and ability to carry out their important work.
75. Her delegation agreed with Ecuador on the need to make available the resources needed by the Funds and appealed to donor countries for voluntary contributions so that the Funds could continue to exist separately.
76. Mr. SKLIAROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the appreciation expressed by the developing countries for the two Funds was proof of their importance. A number of Soviet geological organizations had recently voiced interest in the work of UNRFNRE.
77. Mr. ZHANG Guoquan (China) said that both Funds had yielded important results and opened new fields for scientific and technological co-operation with developing countries. China supported UNFSTD and UNRFNRE and considered it unfortunate that their activities would have to be restricted for lack of resources. His delegation was not in favour of merging the Funds, because both had their respective priorities and activities.
78. Mrs. SCHILLING (Venezuela) endorsed the remarks made by the representatives of Ecuador, Japan and Panama, and appealed to the industrialized countries to study the possibility of providing financial support to the two Funds, in the light of the situation of the developing countries. The gulf between the two groups of countries was becoming an abyss, especially with regard to science and technology. Now was not the time to take the decisions that were proposed. Instead, the industrialized countries could help to maintain both Funds, which were of importance to the developing countries, particularly in the light of the meagre UNDP and United Nations resources otherwise available to support those objectives.
79. Mr. MALMIERCA (Cuba) endorsed the representative of Ecuador's views on the importance of both Funds, and regretted the financial difficulties that they were facing. He appealed to donors to make contributions enabling the Funds to continue to play their role.
80. Mr. LY (Observer for Senegal) reiterated the appeal to donors to contribute to the two Funds, and in particular the UNFSTD. His delegation favoured incorporation of those activities in the UNDP programme, but thought that there must be an evaluation, to see the specific results a reorganization would engender. Whatever solution was adopted, his delegation considered that the two bodies should maintain their separate identities, in view of their different objectives.
81. Mr. SINGH (India) said that his delegation also favoured maintaining the identity of the two Funds, as well as strengthening the role of the UNFSTD.
82. Mr. LIMA (Brazil) expressed support for both Funds. In his delegation's view, every effort should be made to maintain their separate identities.
83. Ms. BWANGA-BUGONZI (Observer for Uganda) said that her delegation also supported the idea that the two Funds should not be merged, but should collaborate closely, as suggested by other delegations. Uganda was embarking

on formulation of its scientific and technological policy, after two decades of social and economic decline. It thus needed technological assistance, and also wished for an opportunity to benefit from the experience gained in technological incubators.

84. Ms. SHALABY (Observer for Egypt) endorsed other delegations' views on the need to maintain both Funds, keeping them autonomous. She appealed to all donors to come forward with the necessary resources to enable the Funds to continue with their work and make their finds generally available. Her delegation commended the achievements of both Funds in the area of technical co-operation.

85. Mr. AQUARONE (Netherlands) said that two distinct issues were being discussed. The first was the relevance of promoting science and technology for development, and natural resources exploration. It was, he believed, universally accepted that they were indeed relevant development objectives. The second issue concerned the mechanisms that could and should be used to address those challenges and goals. In that regard, wrong choices had sometimes been made. Whatever the reasons, the fact was that the Funds had failed to attract the minimum resources needed to ensure their viability. There thus seemed to be no alternative to following the Administrator's proposals. That did not mean that the aims pursued were not relevant; they could be pursued in other forums, and through other financial mechanisms, including the funds available to UNDP. His delegation therefore fully endorsed the Administrator's recommendations.

86. Mr. FLEMMING (Observer for Saint Lucia) said that his delegation enthusiastically supported the Administrator's proposals to entrust management of the two Funds to a single office, while keeping their identify separate. It hoped, however, that that move would not vitiate the current operating procedures under the respective Funds' mandates. The final sentence of paragraph 9 of document DP/1990/59 seemed to his delegation to impose unnecessary restrictions on the UNRFNRE. The UNRFNRE had for some time used many innovative practices in project execution, and it should not be restricted in any way. His delegation therefore hoped that the sentence in question would not be reflected by the drafting group in its work. Needless to say, Saint Lucia supported increased resource pledges to both Funds.

87. Mr. AJELLO (Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Special Activities) stressed that it was their administrative structure, and not the Funds themselves, that was to be unified. However, the Funds' activity must be commensurate with their resources; and the decision to entrust project execution for the UNRFNRE to executing agencies was the result of that constraint. Of course, if further contributions were forthcoming, then a return to the old system might be possible.

88. With regard to the objections voiced by the representatives of the United States, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, he said that the possibility of incorporating the Funds' activities in the UNDP central programme had indeed been considered. Some activities could be thus incorporated, and, especially in the area of science and technology, many were already included in programmes financed by IPFs. However, problems would arise regarding incorporation of other activities, particularly with respect to the UNRFNRE, in view of the high risk and the long time-frame attaching to

those activities. The minimum resources required to ensure operation of the Funds were not large: in the case of the UNRFNRE, \$10 million was all that was needed. For the UNFSTD, \$5 million would suffice to enable it to undertake its promotional work and pilot projects. Most science and technology activities would be incorporated in the UNDP central programme. The decision currently facing the Governing Council was simply whether to reduce the Funds' administrative and structural expenses; while leaving the door open for further reflection as to whether, in the future, they could be revitalized or an alternative solution must be found.

89. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to refer to the Drafting Group the policy issues relating to the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.

90. It was so decided.

91. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would further take it that the Council approved Project BOL/88/N01 as contained in document DP/NRE/PROJECTS/REC/12, Exploration for Placer Gold in the Suches Area, Republic of Bolivia, for a total of \$2.2 million, and that the Council took note of the approval by the Administrator of the minimum work for the project as set out in paragraph 9 of that document.

92. It was so decided.

93. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would also take it that the Council took note of the projects contained in document DP/NRE/PROJECTS/13 and DP/NRE/PROJECTS/14.

94. It was so decided

PROGRAMME PLANNING (agenda item 5) (continued)

(a) FOURTH PROGRAMMING CYCLE

(i) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FACILITY (DP/1990/35)

95. Mr. TAL (Director, Planning and Co-ordination Office) said that the Project Development Facility (PDF) had been established by decision 85/4 of June 1985, to help improve the quality and effectiveness of programmes and projects financed by the United Nations, and, in particular, project identification, formulation and appraisal. The facility met the costs of the missions associated with the process, funding being provided from SPR. The other somewhat comparable arrangement, Preparatory Assistance (PA), required tripartite signatures, usually a lengthy process, and was available for project identification and formulation, but not for project appraisal.

96. Under the initial arrangements \$2 million had been committed and expended. Currently, each Regional Bureau received an allocation proportional to the aggregate country IPF for the region, which it then managed within established rules. The new, highly decentralized arrangement had proved most efficient and flexible, with the demand for funds exceeding available resources. An amount of \$3.5 million had been released in separate tranches.

By May 1989 practically all funds had been committed, and a further \$1 million had been authorized in November 1989, funded from the replenishment from the first arrangement, as authorized by the Council. Those funds were practically exhausted, while demand continued owing to continuous calls to increase delivery. By 31 December 1989, 370 missions financed from the PDF had been undertaken, 159 under the old arrangement and 211 under the new one.

97. Agencies provided staff or recommended consultants for the PDF missions. During the Inter-Agency Consultative Meeting (IACM) held at the end of 1989, agencies had expressed their satisfaction with PDF activities in general, and with the fact that the intra-agency distribution of projects was not significantly affected by the use of those funds in the preparatory stage.

98. The "multiplier" effect of the PDF, that was to say the volume of IPF budgets generated per PDF dollar spent on completed missions, was \$62. In other words, on average \$62 worth of IPF budgets could be expected to be generated for each \$1 spent in PDF missions that had generated projects. However, the multiplier effect measured only the direct IPF budget resulting from the PDF missions, and thus tended to underestimate the impact of the PDF, especially when cost sharing or other donors' contributions complemented the IPF effort. Based on past experience, and assuming similar behaviour of the approval process, slightly over \$230 million in IPF budgets could be expected to be generated by the funds released in PDF2.

99. The most attractive feature of the PDF, especially as compared with the PA mechanism, was its flexibility. Both mechanisms assisted in the project formulation process, but the PDF did not require the formal documentation associated with the PA. Furthermore, Governments had an incentive to try new approaches to their technical co-operation needs, as IPF funds were not charged. Above all, the PDF helped in the build-up of the pipeline and allowed for project appraisal activities, areas that could not be covered through the PA mechanism.

100. The first advantage of the PDF was its speed of implementation. Missions could be fielded in one or two months, rather than the several months needed in the case of PA. Actual project finalization time had been reduced from eight to nine months to three to four months.

101. A second advantage was independence of advice. While use of PA entailed a quasi-commitment to an agency, the use of independent consultants through PDF provided a more objective view. PDF had also proved an important incentive for generating projects with third-party financing in smaller countries where IPFs were almost fully committed, and had provided Governments with an effective means of tackling risky, unconventional or innovative projects. Finally, unlike PA, PDF provided a means of complementing the skills of UNDP personnel in the appraisal process, particularly in high technology.

102. The PDF had evolved into a most efficient mechanism for the generation and improvement of the pipeline projects. The bulk of the activities had been focused on formulation or reformulation of projects, i.e. consolidation of identified projects from pipeline into actual project approvals. The decentralization of the administration of PDF to the bureau level had proved to be most effective. The allocation of funds at the regional level had provided an equitable distribution of resources while allowing enough flexibility to respond rapidly to specific country needs.



103. The level of fifth-cycle programming was expected to reach about \$4.5 billion. The level of pipeline needed to sustain such a programme had been estimated at \$1.1 billion of continuous projects. Assuming that the PDF impact remained constant, the \$15 million requested for the next cycle should assist in the formulation of about \$700 million worth of pipeline projects, roughly 60 per cent of the total required pipeline.

104. Mr. MALMIERCA (Cuba) fully supported the activities of the PDF, which made a very significant contribution to improving the quality of UNDP-financed programmes and projects. However, figure 3 of document DP/1990/35 showed that 60.7 per cent of the consultants employed were from industrialized countries. His delegation urged the PDF to use more developing country experts in its work.

105. Miss DOHERTY (United Kingdom) said that her delegation supported the PDF as a means of improving project quality and delivery. It was pleased to note that the ratio of mission costs to resulting project expenditure had improved in PDF2, although the average duration of missions seemed surprisingly long. She asked what arrangements were made to enable recipient ministries and organizations to gain experience by participating in missions.

106. Mr. EL-FERJANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) endorsed the remarks made by the previous speakers on the importance of the facility, and particularly those made by the representative of Cuba regarding the need to draw on the experience of developing countries. His delegation hoped that the activities of the PDF would be expanded.

107. Mr. Popescu (Romania) resumed the Chair.

108. Mr. MacARTHUR (United States of America) said that in 1985 his Government had supported the establishment of the PDF as part of the reforms made by UNDP to improve the quality of its programmes. The intention had been that resident representatives would have access to independent, supplementary technical advice for use in the projects design stage, since the office of the resident representative or resident co-ordinator had not always been receiving the best advice from the United Nations system agencies. An important part of the PDF's function had been to increase resident representatives' or co-ordinators' access to technical expertise, to ensure that new approaches and alternative designs were considered in the process of deciding on the best approach to be taken by a particular project.

109. As document DP/1990/35 showed, UNDP called on outside consultants as well as United Nations system agencies for the expertise obtained through the facility. Furthermore, the existence of the facility remained a matter of controversy in some agencies. His delegation considered that the use of the PDF described in document DP/1990/35 had strayed beyond its original purpose of refining or reformulating project design. It was now being used almost as a substitute for normal financing of the project design process, and for the generation of new projects. In addition, it was no longer a reimbursable facility. Originally, the facility was to be reimbursed from the regular budgets if a project was indeed funded following the involvement of technical expertise financed from the facility. The PDF had not been intended for use in building up project pipeline, although its use was indeed to be intensified to enable UNDP to programme the additional resources which had become available as a result of decision 1988/31.

110. The PDF performed a number of valuable functions: the United States supported its continuance as a source of independent advice, in the development of innovative approaches and appraisal or reformulation of projects. To the extent that the decision on support costs improved the quality of technical advice from agencies and their involvement in broader sectoral analysis and development of approaches to sectoral problems, there should be less need for the sort of corrective reformulation work now financed through the PDF. The Council should bear that factor in mind when looking at resource allocations for the fifth programming cycle. His delegation also believed that the reimbursable concept should be reconsidered, to ensure that the PDF resources were actually used as a complement to regular project design funds.

111. Mr. TAL (Director, Planning and Co-ordination Office), responding to the points raised, assured the representatives of Cuba and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya that UNDP drew on the experience of developing countries in two ways: first, from the interaction between the consultants and the developing countries, and secondly, by striving to increase the number of consultants from developing countries. In response to the representative of the United Kingdom, he said that the average duration of missions was in fact reasonable and relatively modest for a total project formulation mission.

112. The description by the representative of the United States of America of the origins of the PDF reflected the decisions and agreement that had been reached at the time. There had been no departure from the initial principle, namely, that quality should be enhanced. What had been gradually added to the PDF was its pipeline component, reflecting the fact that the PA mechanism had not been yielding an adequate pipeline. During the experimental PDF1 period, it had been found that the reimbursement process created a lot of difficulties. Resident representatives had not wanted to use the PDF while PA was available, despite the fact that the latter process was more lengthy. Resident representatives and Governments now welcomed the PDF, but were eager for more resources, so as to build up the pipeline. Experience had shown that the scarcity of resources helped to focus on the actual needs of the programme. The initial objectives of the PDF and those subsequently added had been mutually supportive. It was for that reason that the Administrator had proposed increasing the amount allocated for the fifth cycle.

113. The PRESIDENT said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of document DP/1990/35 on Project Development Facility, it being understood that the financial earmarking for the facility would be part of the decision on the fifth programming cycle.

114. It was so decided.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (agenda item 4) (continued)

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS PREVIOUS SESSIONS (continued)

(viii) WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (DP/1990/26)

115. Ms. REID (Programme Director, Division for Women in Development), introducing the report of the Administrator (DP/1990/26), said that the goal of the Division for Women in Development was to create an organization within which equity prevailed in personnel matters, in which attitudes did not

demean, discourage or disadvantage women, through which women's skills and knowledge were used and built upon, and through whose operations the benefits of development flowed to women and girls.

116. The Division's work was not with women per se or with projects for women alone. Its concern was that both men and women, and the social, psychological, cultural and economic relations between them, should form the basis of development assistance. That was a gender perspective rather than a focus on women alone. The Division's constituency was the staff of UNDP and, through them, those they worked with, namely, government and executing agency staff. Its aim was to increase their professional competence in that area and thereby to improve the efficiency, the gender-sensitivity and the beneficial impact of all UNDP's work.

117. There were many examples of work currently being undertaken by the staff of the Division. Women's contribution to agricultural production and to the informal and business sectors in Africa had started to be recognized in project formulation, monitoring and evaluation. A question which arose in that connection concerned the future of the agricultural sector in Africa and how women would be contributing to it. The Division had raised that question with the Regional Bureau for Africa within the framework of UNPAAERD. Refugee populations, particularly in Cambodia, were composed predominantly of women and children. What were the implications of that fact for the reconstruction and development of Cambodia? In that connection, a staff member of the Division had been part of an inter-agency mission to Cambodia. UNDP and UNDR0 were preparing disaster manuals and training materials. Those, however, must be sensitive to the fact that women as well as men were survivors of disasters, were field care workers and rebuilders of their lives. The Division was working with the responsible Headquarters unit to ensure that account was taken of that fact. The Division had also assisted in the preparation of the Human Development Report 1990 and it was important to ensure that gender-sensitivity infused all ensuing activities and policy dialogues with national governments.

118. Not all the gender-sensitive work of UNDP was initiated or implemented by the Division. There were many examples to the contrary, such as the work on the Social Dimensions of Adjustment project where UNDP staff had brought their own individual gender-competence to all aspects of their work.

119. Such examples to a certain extent distorted understanding of the Division's work, most of which was mundane, such as: appraising documents, identifying consultants, advocacy of the issues, identifying candidates for recruitment and liaison with other agencies. The Division was there to help everyone else do their work better but not to do it for them. The need currently was for the resources to be able to do that in a more systematic way.

120. Ms. LORENZO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that UNIDO would have welcomed receiving the questionnaire referred to in paragraph 2 of the report. In industry, for example, women were often confronted by attitudinal and structural forces that influenced their opportunities. That not only limited the scope of their contribution to the industrialization process but also deprived their countries of the productive utilization of a significant proportion of the human resources that were needed at a time of rapid change and structural adjustment pressures.

121. Developing the managerial and entrepreneurial capabilities of women and putting them to optimum use was a problem in a large number of developing countries. That was evident from the low demand for women at levels of responsibility which were commensurate with their capabilities and potential. Planning policies needed to be oriented towards changing organizational structures. Changes also needed to be made in the design and development of programmes and projects. The training of men and women on issues relating to the integration of women in the development process should help to bring about a major shift in the perception of the contributions which women could make in the formal and informal sectors.

122. Investment to generate the required skills in sufficient numbers needed to be regarded as a strategic issue and one which called for national policies of industrialization to be closely linked to a workforce composed of men and women.

123. UNIDO had initiated in-house training on gender-sensitive projects designed to develop the ability of its staff to address in a systematic manner issues which related to women, particularly in such areas as industrial planning, human resource development, agro-industries, small-scale industries and the development of appropriate technologies. It stood ready to co-operate with the UNDP strategy in gender-sensitive programme and project planning as those factors already formed part of its own strategy for women in industry.

124. In conclusion, UNIDO believed that the integration of women should be viewed as a dynamic process which should involve those vested with authority over planning at the political level as well as those responsible for project execution in public and private enterprise.

125. Mrs. AMARASEKERA (Sri Lanka) said that her delegation endorsed the Administrator's view that UNDP fifth cycle country programmes must address gender issues at programme and project levels. Her delegation was happy to note that there was a growing awareness of the importance of gender-sensitive plans and projects.

126. Her delegation urged UNDP to place greater emphasis on increasing its responsiveness to the needs of women in the country specific policy analyses for the fifth programming cycle and on identifying issues to be addressed through country IPFs during that cycle. A sharper focus was needed on the socio-economic factors obstructing the development of women; such factors varied from country to country and from group to group.

127. For some groups of women, the problem was lack of education and basic skills; for others it might be lack of credit facilities or marketing expertise or bargaining power. It might also be inequality of pay or lack of awareness of their own rights. Basic factors included the inadequacy of family income, lack of education in food and nutrition, health and sanitation and family planning. High incidence of disease in the family due to ignorance of basic health care and the importance of a balanced diet and too many children made life burdensome for women as housewives and mothers. They had to work longer hours and make more sacrifices, thus forgoing their share of the family income and the family meal and denying themselves basic needs.

128. To improve the quality of life of those women, their tasks as housewives and mothers must be made less burdensome. That could be done in many ways, such as, for instance, through improved knowledge on food and nutrition which would enable them to provide a more balanced diet for the family using available food items. Ignorance could often contribute to malnutrition. Through technology transfer, adaptation and development, the task of women could also be made easier. Easy access to water, better implements and improved techniques could make life easier.

129. To improve their income-generating capacity, women needed time, skills, credit and marketing know-how and leadership training. Their bargaining power could be increased if the leadership was there to organize and seek assistance from government institutions.

130. Intermediaries and employers exploited women engaged in coconut fibre production in the coconut belt of Sri Lanka as they were not sufficiently organized to dispense with intermediaries and lacked the knowledge and funds to secure legal assistance to fight for their rights as employees or to import implements and technology. Projects to provide credit facilities and develop entrepreneurship were extremely important in tapping the full potential of women in the development process. The UNDP programme could be used for the provision of the skills, seed money and assistance needed to establish creches and kindergartens to provide more time for women to develop their income-generating activities.

131. Her delegation recommended that UNDP should address those socio-economic problems through gender-specific projects and approaches in all UNDP projects. Greater resources must be allocated for such an approach and her delegation recommended that indicators should be developed to monitor and assess the gender responsiveness of the UNDP programmes.

132. Mr. NGOM (Observer for Senegal) said that women, particularly in Africa, continued to play a marginal role in the economic development process. Environmental constraints, economic and social factors as well as cultural attitudes contributed to their continued marginalization. It must be recognized, however, that women played a predominant economic and social role in production and education and their active participation in the development process was a necessary factor for change. In that connection, his delegation congratulated the Administrator on his forward-looking initiatives in that field in recent years.

133. In Senegal, for instance, UNDP, in co-operation with the Netherlands and UNIFEM, had furnished support to more than 600 self-managed women's groups as well as to many activities, inter alia, in education, family life, water supply in rural areas, the processing and marketing of food products, the financing of micro-projects and the integration of the women-factor in planning. Periodic consultations between his country and the financial backers and executing agency was also a valuable UNDP activity.

134. His delegation fully endorsed the recommendations contained in the report, particularly those relating to basic activities for the future; in particular the women in development factor must be taken into greater account. The proposals closely reflected the current concerns of the African countries on the issue of women in development and were fully consistent with

those identified in the Human Development Report 1990. They must also be taken fully into account in the preparations for the fifth programming cycle. The issue of women in development must be included in all aspects of future activities.

135. Ms. ARRNIO (Observer for Finland), speaking also on behalf of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, said that the four Nordic countries were firmly dedicated to the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women both in their own countries and in other parts of the world, particularly as they concerned poor and vulnerable women in developing countries.

136. Women should be regarded not only as beneficiaries but also as contributors in the development process. The report (DP/1990/26) identified several important aspects to ensure better gender-awareness in UNDP. Still greater emphasis should, however, have been put on the elaboration of a larger number of practical proposals for field activities than were listed in the document.

137. There was still a long way to go before practical results could be seen in programme and project implementation. Paragraph 42 of the report stated rightly that all programme staff needed to be competent to treat women in development as a professional concern. Priority given to the recruitment of women in the Organization as well as the establishment of the Division on Women in Development did not in themselves lead to gender-awareness. The Nordic countries would like to see an identification of practical means whereby the goals already set could be reached. That was of even more urgent concern as UNDP was at a decisive phase in preparing for the fifth programme cycle.

138. National policies on women provided the framework for the inclusion of women in development considerations in UNDP's country programming. The report stated that a number of UNDP field offices provided "significant assistance" to Governments through their women's bureaux and other units. The Nordic countries would welcome information on the thoroughness of that approach and whether needs had been identified on a broad scale or whether the assistance had been provided on an ad hoc basis.

139. The integration of women into mainstream activities on all levels was the overriding goal. The Nordic countries would like more information on UNDP's experience in that respect. They also considered that UNDP could intensify its co-operation with other United Nations organizations in that field, including UNIFEM, UNICEF and UNFPA.

140. The Nordic delegations had noticed that there had been no change in the number of women in the senior and decision-making levels and would accordingly encourage UNDP to intensify its efforts to improve the career development of women staff members. An increased number of women staff did not in itself improve the capacity for gender-sensitivity and programme approach. Both men and women staff members needed gender-specific training.

141. The Nordic delegations shared the view of UNDP that formal training and courses were needed and that the ultimate goal had to be the integration of women's issues in overall project and programme training at all levels.

142. The report stated that 600 persons had attended UNDP training courses on women in development since 1987. The Nordic delegations would like to know what that training entailed and what had been the outcome. They trusted that the comment concerning Junior Professional Officers contained in paragraph 27 of the report did not mean that they had been excluded from the training, but only from the statistics.

143. The Nordic delegations would like to see local expertise used to an increasing extent. In that connection it would be advisable to establish local data banks on women in development expertise available in countries or regions. Such an exercise would be most effective if other United Nations agencies joined for the mutual benefit of all.

144. Turning to the mandate and resources of the Division on Women in Development, the Nordic delegations considered that it was obvious that, if the Division was not given sufficient resources, there would be a danger that the whole issue would be marginalized in UNDP. They had noted from paragraph 27 of the report that a staff member on a full-time basis was being assigned to the Division for most of 1990. They hoped that that did not mean any decrease in staff resources towards the end of the decade. There was still much work to be done by a full-time training officer. In addition to training, the Nordic delegations expected the Division to make an effective contribution to the concept of women in development.

145. Mr. IVERSEN (Germany, Federal Republic of) said that efforts in the area of women in development were currently concentrated on creating institutional conditions at all levels, on developing new instruments or on adapting existing instruments to the requirements of women in development. His delegation was particularly interested in such areas as co-operation with ministries for planning and the analysis of national planning documents on problem areas and initiatives related to women, as in the case of Bangladesh. The intended continuation of that type of activity in other countries could serve as an important focal point in raising the level of consciousness in those countries. Moreover it could demonstrate how the promotion of women in development could be implemented in bilateral as well as in multilateral co-operation programmes and projects. Such efforts should be increased; the question also arose as to how UNDP's experience in that field could be of use for other donors.

146. Country programmes which took account of gender-specific aspects, such as the effects of macro-economic factors among women, provided the basis for activities which could be of real assistance to women. The assistance to Governments mentioned in paragraph 15 of the report was equally important for monitoring the flow of development assistance and determining its beneficiaries under gender-specific aspects. There should be close co-operation with UNIFEM in any continuation of such analytical work.

147. His delegation was greatly interested in the comments made in the report regarding the career development of women staff and for project staff in general. The policies and practices described in paragraph 22 could serve as a model, particularly where they sought solutions for the problems of accompanying partners. Another important factor was the question of how to employ competent and highly qualified women in appropriate positions in their own countries.

148. His delegation welcomed the fact that UNDP had implemented its mandate on women in development through policy directives and was striving to include gender concerns in areas like the environment, poverty, the HIV epidemic and matters related to refugees and displaced persons.

149. In conclusion, his delegation considered that, in future, women in development training should be given a higher priority at the country level as well as for UNDP staff. It also wished to propose that specific programmes for poverty alleviation and investment in people, with particular emphasis on women in development, should be included in the Special Programme Resources for the fifth cycle.

150. Mr. MALMIERCA (Cuba) said that his Government attached high priority to the full integration of women in the economic and social development process and appreciated the work of UNDP in that connection. He urged the Administrator to continue his efforts to attain that objective. The role of women should be taken fully into account in all projects and close co-operation should be maintained with UNIFEM and UNICEF.

151. His delegation had taken note of the increase in the number of women recruited by UNDP but believed that more must be done to increase the percentage of women in posts at the decision-making levels.

152. Mr. SALEEM (Pakistan) said that his delegation hoped that UNDP would generate greater awareness worldwide of the importance of women in development. The participation of women in identifying, formulating and implementing projects would make a positive contribution not only to their own well-being but also to national development.

153. In that connection, he would like to mention that no substantial assistance had so far been provided by UNDP for women in development in Pakistan. The only scheme so far approved for funding by UNDP was that relating to "Monitoring and Evaluation of Women's Development Programmes". His delegation would therefore welcome new projects pertaining to the specific issue of women in development in Pakistan.

154. In Pakistan, the old concept that a woman's sphere of activities was confined to her home had undergone revolutionary changes since independence in 1947. The mass communication media had made a substantial contribution to bringing about those changes and continued to exercise a great influence on the formation of a progressive outlook regarding the role of women in society. Pakistan supported all efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and, in that regard, abided by the relevant instruments adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women.

155. The current elected Government of Pakistan was greatly concerned with the well-being of women and of deprived segments of society. It had accordingly elevated the status of the Women's Division to a full-fledged Ministry in 1989. It had also decided to reserve 5 per cent of all vacancies in posts in Federal Government offices to be filled by the direct recruitment of women. That quota was in addition to their eligibility to compete equally in



the employment sector. The Government had also established a Women's Development Bank which would meet the credit needs of women and was expected to help in improving the economic conditions of women and in increasing their self-confidence.

156. The Government of Pakistan was determined to provide women with their legitimate rights and was fully aware of the difficulties they faced. Every effort was accordingly being made by the Government to provide legal remedies and assistance in connection with discriminatory laws and to identify and implement projects for providing special facilities for women.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

