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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND PART \*/ OF THE 36th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 15 June 1990, at 6 p.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

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PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (agenda item 4) (continued)

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

(ix) ENVIRONMENT (DP/1990/27)

1. The PRESIDENT said that an informal exchange of views had taken place at Geneva, on 29 May 1990, between the Bureau of the UNDP Governing Council and the President and two Vice-Presidents of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Representatives of the secretariats of UNDP and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) had also attended. The meeting had been arranged on the initiative of the UNEP Governing Council, which had already held similar meetings with officers of the governing bodies of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Further meetings were planned with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Food Council (WFC).

2. The exchange of views had covered matters of mutual interest, including the expanded co-operation between UNEP and UNDP endorsed in Council decision 89/23, the concept of sustainable development and the need for socially acceptable solutions, the preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), field-level co-operation between UNDP and UNEP, and the importance of environmental considerations in UNDP project planning and implementation.

3. Mr. GUCOVSKY (Deputy Assistant Administrator and Director, Technical Advisory Division) said that the report of the Administrator on the environmental dimensions of development: commitment and progress in 1989 (DP/1990/27) also outlined the perspectives for 1990/91 and beyond. It was submitted to the Council in response to its decision 89/28.

4. An integrated view of development and environment provided the framework for all UNDP technical co-operation. Many speakers during the high-level segment of the plenary and at the fortieth commemorative meeting had stressed the importance of that approach. The operational units of UNDP were pursuing with increased vigour environmental activities in support of people-centred development that was environmentally sound and sustainable. UNDP had continued to strengthen its field and headquarters management and its capacity to deal with the environmental dimensions of development, introducing inter alia its Environmental Management Guidelines (EMG) and the Sustainable Development Network (SDN).

5. The impact of such actions was already evident in the increase in the number of environmental projects approved in 1989 and in their technical sophistication and scope. The institutional and managerial commitment to a result- and action-oriented conference in Brazil in 1992 had already been described in statements to the Council by the Administrator and the Secretary-General of UNCED.

6. There had been five important recent developments. First, it had emerged from the recent consultation in Paris with the major donors and some beneficiary countries that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was likely to

be established before the end of 1990. The GEF was to be set up as a core multilateral pilot fund that might approach \$US 1 billion. In the period 1991-1993, it would provide finance to middle- and lower-income countries for investment, transfer of technology, technical assistance and institutional development.

7. It would concentrate on four problems of global concern: depletion of the ozone layer, global warming, loss of biodiversity, and pollution of international waters. Such finance would be in addition to the normal funding of projects and programmes, and there would be sufficient flexibility for co-financing with other programmes. The regional development banks and other United Nations agencies might also participate in the implementation of GEF-financed activities.

8. Sustainable management of tropical forests addressed two of the four GEF priorities - global warming and loss of biodiversity, as well as providing benefits for rural communities and local environments. UNDP was prepared to undertake several informal country identification missions to test the criteria and intellectual framework proposed for the GEF. The interest already shown by two major countries in pilot identification/formulation missions indicated the capacity of UNDP to meet the urgent needs of both individual countries and the international community.

9. The first module to be implemented by the Facility was likely to be assistance to developing countries in implementing the provision of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer concerning the phasing-out and replacement of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and related ozone-depleting substances. The People's Republic of China had been assisted by a mission funded by UNDP and FINNIDA to prepare a programme of action for the next three years that would result in a 50 per cent reduction in China's projected consumption of ozone-depleting substances. If the Contracting Parties to the Montreal Protocol agreed at their June 1990 meeting that the GEF should serve as its agent and if the required \$US 200,000 million was pledged, implementation of China's programme and others could begin.

10. The report entitled World Resources 1990-91: A Guide to the Global Environment which was a joint venture of the World Resources Institute (WRI), UNDP and UNEP, was intended for decision-makers and the public in both developing and developed countries. It would be made available to UNDP field offices and to government and non-government officials. In addition to introducing a new "Greenhouse Index", the report also surveyed resource use and management in Latin America, where economic problems and poverty must be alleviated to enable environmentally conscious Governments to respond to environmental concerns.

11. UNDP had also taken an active part in the recent Conference convened by the Centre for Our Common Future to assist NGOs to prepare for the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for UNCED in August. Such action was part of the continuous UNDP effort to mobilize NGOs in support of UNCED; it was also supporting Governments in the preparation of their documents for the Conference.

12. In collaboration with the regional economic commissions and regional development banks, UNDP was also assisting Governments to prepare their development and environmental agenda and programmes for submission to UNCED.

Such action would also facilitate participation by the developing countries in the dialogue on the environmental aspects of development and climate change.

13. The Council's comments on the Administrator's report and its policy guidance would enable the Programme to enhance its capacity to respond to the urgent needs of Governments and intergovernmental organizations. Such needs related to national issues of environmental degradation and management of natural resources, in the context of the priority given to economic recovery and poverty alleviation and to the solution of global environmental problems.

14. Ms. LORENZO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that the benefits of SDN and EMG were already becoming apparent. UNIDO, like UNDP was committed to a programmatic approach to environmental matters. At its sixth session, the Industrial Development Board had approved an environment programme, the primary objectives of which were to ensure the environmental sustainability of industrial development and to maximize the beneficial impact of industry on the quality of life by minimizing its adverse environmental effects.

15. UNIDO was trying to assist developing countries to implement the Montreal Protocol and intended to expand the programme of national assessment studies initiated by UNEP so as to highlight the current pattern of demand and supply for ozone-depleting substances in individual developing countries. It also intended to assist the developing countries with the recycling and safe disposal of such substances. It endorsed the UNEP proposal for a financial mechanism to enable the developing countries to meet the requirements of the Montreal Protocol. The Tropical Forestry Action Plans (TFAPs) were also being taken into account in the preparations for the Second Consultation on Wood and Wood Products.

16. UNIDO had launched a programme of industrial rehabilitation in response to the high priority attached thereto by its member States. The programme aimed to demonstrate that industrial rehabilitation could both increase productivity and reduce environmental problems. UNIDO fully supported the GEF and was actively involved in the preparations for UNCED. It hoped that the preparatory process and the Conference itself would forge links between the various components of the United Nations system with a view to providing comprehensive and co-ordinated responses to urgent environmental issues.

17. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia) said that his delegation, which congratulated UNDP on giving environmental issues greater prominence both in its strategic planning and at the operational level, supported the Administrator's proposal to allocate more SPR funds to the area in the fifth programming cycle. The report of the Administrator revealed that Action Committee approvals for environment-focused projects had doubled in dollar terms over 1988 and that nearly one quarter of current project activities contributed towards environmentally sound and sustainable development.

18. Much, of course, had still to be done. UNDP should continue to build local capacities for environment-related projects and integrate environmental concerns into the project cycle as a normal part of project formulation and implementation. It had a vital role to play in assisting Governments to prepare for UNCED: it should hold more workshops on environment and sustainable development and continue to support regional conferences. The efforts to encourage effective participation by community-based groups, NGOs, and the private sector in developing countries were particularly welcome, for

it was essential to the success of the 1992 Conference. UNDP also had a vital role to play in assisting the developing countries to cope with the requirements of the Montreal Protocol and the proposed conventions on climate change and biodiversity and to develop environment-friendly processes.

19. The international community's response to the challenges of environment and development would perforce be complex and would need to take into account a great diversity of local conditions. The countries geographically closest to Australia, for example, had particular environmental concerns which must continue to be given due weight in development and environment planning. UNDP should continue to publish Environmental Concerns in the Asian and Pacific Region and make similar publications available for the other regions.

20. The GEF initiative was of particular interest and his delegation would like more detailed information about it.

21. Finally, on the issue of resource-allocation for environmental activities, his Government accepted a responsibility to contribute to international efforts to protect the environment, repair damage and promote ecologically sustainable development. It would continue to give practical assistance to countries to help them sustain their development. As an example, it had adopted guidelines for the integration of environmental concerns into development assistance programmes and had established a four-year special environmental assistance programme.

22. Mr. ABDEL-NASSER (Observer for Egypt) said that his delegation appreciated the part played by UNDP in the preparations for UNCED and, in particular, the high-level seminar held at Cairo in May on the Programme's role in the Arab region. It welcomed the tripartite efforts of UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank to create an international facility to fund the projects of middle- and low-income developing countries and help them develop their human resources. UNDP assistance to the developing countries on implementation of the Montreal Protocol was also most welcome.

23. The general approach to environment and development must aim at implementing a development strategy reflecting the priorities and needs of the developing countries. The environment was closely linked not only to economic development but also to social development and poverty alleviation, especially in the African countries. Concern for the environment must not, however, take the form of a new conditionality in the assistance furnished to developing countries.

24. His delegation agreed with the Administrator on the importance of the role of NGOs in halting environmental degradation. Government initiatives must also be supported, especially by collaboration between developed and developing countries. In that connection, desertification control was especially important, for desertification threatened the environment on an international scale.

25. Mr. MALMIERCA (Cuba) said that, while an integrated view of environment and development was vital, it should be remembered that the circumstances of each developing country were different and must be taken into account in all co-operation between Governments on the environment. It was also important for UNDP to maintain close co-ordination with other organizations in the United Nations system, especially UNEP. The integrated approach in such areas

as transfer of technology, training, and the use of natural resources should link environmental problems to the national priorities that must remain at the centre of all activities.

26. Mr. HALVORSEN (Norway), speaking on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway, said the Nordic countries considered that, although welcome progress had already been made, there was still much more to be done. They would support further UNDP initiatives, in addition to the SDN, EMG and GEF.

27. The Sustainable Development Network (SDN), which should be designed to fill gaps in existing information systems, might in due course be expanded from the national to the regional and interregional levels.

28. The Nordic countries supported the intention behind the development of the Environmental Management Guidelines (EMG). It was important to focus efforts on the decision-making process throughout the programme and project cycles, and it was to be hoped that active use of the guidelines would make the concept of sustainable development more operational in UNDP activities. The EMG must be followed up by training activities and promoted throughout UNDP, and that necessarily demanded both time and money. The Nordic countries, which would support an increased SPR allocation for such activities during the fifth programming cycle, hoped that further testing and development of the EMG by UNDP would help to establish such guidelines throughout the United Nations system.

29. With regard to the preparation of the GEF, the Nordic countries accorded high priority to threats to the global environment and recognized that the industrialized countries must carry the main responsibility for solving problems that had been created mainly by them and provide new and additional resources to developing countries which undertook actions of benefit to the global environment. They therefore welcomed the current efforts to identify financing mechanisms for global environmental purposes.

30. Despite the agreement on a number of issues at the recent Paris meeting on the GEF, other issues had still to be addressed, such as the need for additional financing and for close inter-agency co-operation and a clear demarcation of responsibilities among UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank, as well as in any arrangement under the Montreal Protocol.

31. The Facility must have a broad multilateral character, and UNDP should therefore continue to take part in international consultations on the question. It might usefully initiate exploratory missions to developing countries to assess the practical application of the GEF. The Nordic countries would certainly be active participants in all discussions on means of addressing global environmental problems and they looked forward to active participation by the developing countries as well.

32. The regional follow-up conference to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, organized by the Economic Commission for Europe, had also addressed such issues, and the final documents of that conference constituted a major contribution from the ECE region to the preparations for UNCED. UNDP must play its full part in those preparations, not least by helping developing countries to produce their country reports. In general, UNDP should promote a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to environment and development in a framework of equitable economic growth.

33. Lastly, while paragraph 29 of the report emphasized the role of people's participation in the Tropical Forestry Action Plans, it had been questioned whether that concern had been given due weight in the implementation of the Plans. The Nordic countries would like to hear UNDP's views on that important issue.

34. Mr. IVERSEN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his Government, attached particular importance to environmental matters of every kind. The important technical co-operation role which UNDP could play had rightly been recognized by the World Bank in the preparation of the GEF. His Government intended to provide the Facility with substantial support.

35. Mr. LIMA (Brazil) said that, since the importance attached by his Government to environmental issues was well known, his delegation would restrict its comments to the support furnished by UNDP to Brazil, in order to establish permanent project co-ordination in the environmental area and strengthen environmental management with a view to identifying a series of new proposals and stimulating internal and external investment opportunities.

36. The treatment of environmental issues was undergoing radical change throughout the world. In Brazil, the new institutional requirements were leading to a greater involvement of the people and therefore to new demands. To respond to those demands, it was essential for the political, scientific, technical and managerial sectors to be fully prepared and Brazil's country programme envisaged major support for environmental projects, which amounted to 30 per cent of all the projects being implemented.

37. Brazil was honoured to act as host to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) which, it hoped would prove to be a milestone in the treatment of environmental issues. However, the Conference entailed a heavy work-load and his delegation thus expressed its satisfaction that, as well as acting as a sponsor for the Conference, UNDP was assisting his Government to find other co-sponsors. UNDP was also involved in the preparation and dissemination of the results of related events. His Government was fully committed to UNCED and aware that its success would largely depend on the important role played by UNDP.

38. Mr. DE BEER (Netherlands) said that his delegation wished to caution against the expanded definition of environmental projects given in annex III to the Administrator's report. What was important was that all projects and programmes should comply with the criteria of sustainable and environmentally sound development, and that meant that environmental considerations should play an important role in project formulation, appraisal, execution and evaluation. It was not sufficient merely to describe all projects complying with the criteria as "environmental projects". UNDP should work towards a "greening of aid". The fact that 25 per cent of its projects fell within the criteria could not be called a success but should encourage the Administrator to continue his efforts.

39. The energy component, which occupied an increasingly important place in the environmental field, should be given a higher priority than in the past. That consideration was not mentioned in the report or in the EMG. Of similar importance were the projects clearly related to the protection and rehabilitation of the environment; they should receive due attention in the allocation of resources. The information about the EMG given in annex II was



useful, but his delegation would like a copy of the complete guidelines when available. Lastly, it noted with pleasure the announcement of the involvement of UNDP in the GEF.

40. Mr. JASINSKI (Poland) said that his delegation, which fully supported the UNDP activities aimed at implementation of the environmental strategy, wished to draw attention to two problems concerning Central and Eastern Europe which were not mentioned in the report of the Administrator but had been highlighted in the statement by the Prime Minister of Poland to the ILO General Conference on 12 June 1990.

41. The Prime Minister had stated that the world situation was such that it was virtually impossible for any country to solve environmental problems by acting alone. His Government had thus launched, in conjunction with the Government of Sweden, the idea of a conference of Baltic States which would be held in September 1990. It was hoped that the conference would result in co-operation for the protection of the environment of that region.

42. The Prime Minister had also referred to the serious environmental degradation in Silesia, Poland's most heavily industrialized region, and adjoining areas of the neighbouring States. Like the Baltic Sea, that region merited UNDP attention. His delegation therefore hoped that they, and indeed all regions of ecological disaster, would be given the necessary assistance under UNDP regional and country programmes. The experience gathered in the course of such technical co-operation would be of benefit to both developing and developed countries.

43. Mr. MACARTHUR (United States of America) said that his delegation had taken note of the statement by the Secretary-General of UNCED during the high-level debate concerning the preparations for the Conference. It commended the facilitative role played by UNDP in those preparations, in which the United States was taking a keen interest.

44. With regard to the report by the Administrator currently before the Council, the training of staff, building of information networks, development of environmental guidelines, and country-specific work in support of sustainable development all appeared to be useful activities. However, his delegation was concerned by the several references in the report to additional concessional funding. It was generally not in favour of new additional resources for international funds or mechanisms intended to address environmental needs, for it believed that existing resources within the multilateral development banks and other institutions were appropriate for that purpose.

45. Mr. WARD (Canada) said that, while his delegation noted the increase in the number and value of environmental projects over the past two years, it was more interested, like the delegation of the Netherlands, in the integration of environmental concerns into the design of all projects, in the collaboration with other agencies, and in the promotional work which UNDP had undertaken.

46. The Administrator had said that the environment would occupy the centre of the development agenda for the next decade. The Canadian Government shared that view and was currently formulating an overall environmental strategy. However, since the strategy would not be presented to Parliament until the autumn, his delegation was not yet in a position to comment on the resource

questions raised by the report of the Administrator, particularly with reference to the GEF. However, it was able to encourage the Administrator to give high priority to the use of SPRs during the fifth cycle to promote national capacity-building in environmental policy and project formulation.

47. Mr. KOHLER (International Labour Organisation) said that the current International Labour Conference had before it a report of the Director-General on environment and the world of work. The Director-General was especially concerned about the uncertainty affecting not only environmental questions proper but also their economic, political and social implications. The key question was by whom the bill would be paid. The sharing of costs and benefits within and between countries might be just as important as the environmental policies themselves.

48. Many speakers at the Conference had raised the question of the relationship between environmental problems and policies and employment, training and working conditions, drawing particular attention to the loss of livelihood in developing countries as a result of environmental degradation. ILO emphasized an integration strategy in helping its tripartite constituents - workers, employers and Governments - to play a role in environmental policy and it was also considering the employment implications of environmental strategies; the attention was always focused of course on traditional ILO activities. Many ILO international standards concerning the working environment could also play a role in protecting the natural environment; the Conference was discussing, for example, an international labour convention and recommendations on the use of chemicals at work.

49. ILO looked forward to continuing its fruitful collaboration with UNDP, especially in employment and training, but it would also like to collaborate on internal staff training and make use of UNDP experience in that area. Such co-ordinated approaches to staff training in the United Nations system would help to rationalize the treatment of environmental issues in the future. ILO would also continue to collaborate in the preparations for UNCED, its main purpose being to ensure that the development dimension was integrated into the preparatory process.

50. Miss DOHERTY (United Kingdom) said that her delegation welcomed the Administrator's report and the policy guidelines contained therein. It was especially pleased with the action taken by UNDP to develop co-operation with other United Nations organizations and was interested to learn of the progress made in the establishment of the GEF. It welcomed the streamlining of the Programme's overall capacity to deal with the environment, especially by making institutional adjustments, strengthening the Environmental Action Team, and raising awareness through workshops on the environment and sustainable development. In that connection the establishment of the SDN and formulation of the EMG were welcome, as was the bottom-up approach to training and participation in the use of the guidelines.

51. Her delegation also welcomed the emphasis on environmental management but cautioned against the redefinition of the concept of the environmental project: all projects had an environmental impact, and the aim must be to ensure adequate environmental accountability in all projects and to enhance the environment. Lastly, it encouraged UNDP involvement in the preparations for UNCED.

52. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that the environmental challenge could not be addressed in isolation from the problems of underdevelopment, for the technological means available to the developing world were inadequate for the task. The industrialized countries had succeeded to some extent in redressing the environmental damage caused by industrialization, and the developing countries could use that experience. Hence the need to speed up and enhance the content of the transfer of technology from the industrialized to the developing countries. UNDP had a crucial role to play in that regard. The international mechanisms for strengthening environmental co-operation needed to be more result-oriented. In particular, UNEP should be strengthened as the main source of environmental data assessment and reporting and the main advocate and agent of change in international environmental co-operation. It must be given a greater capacity to identify, assess and report on risks of irreversible damage and threats to the survival and well-being of the world community.

53. At the national level, Pakistan was paying special attention to environmental issues and the creation of environmental awareness, including the environmental impact assessment of development projects and research on the country's environmental conditions. Measures had also been taken to protect the environment, including the creation of an institutional framework, the promulgation of environmental legislation, the incorporation of the environmental dimension in development planning, and the formulation of environmental quality-control standards.

54. Mr. EL-FERJANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the Administrator's excellent report gave an overview of environmental concerns and outlined the framework for implementation of the Programme's environmental strategy. It also described environmental priorities at all levels. In that connection, his delegation stressed the importance of environmental training and of guidelines to ensure that the environmental dimension was given due weight in all development activities, with particular emphasis on people's participation. It hoped that the 1992 Conference would achieve concrete results in that area.

55. At the national level his Government was paying increased attention to environmental issues: it had set up specific bodies and had promulgated environmental-protection laws making it mandatory inter alia to include the environmental dimension in all development activities. Efforts were also being made to promote activities likely to enhance the environment. Environmental protection was a collective responsibility, but the greatest burden must be borne by the industrialized countries, for they had the necessary technology. The steps taken to strengthen national and regional capacities to evaluate climate and climate change were welcome, and co-operation between countries in that area was of course essential.

56. UNDP and UNEP should give increased attention to the environmental problems of the African continent such as desertification and drought. His delegation, which hoped that the necessary technologies and financial support would be furnished on concessional terms and stressed the need to co-ordinate environmental projects at the national, regional and global levels, would like to know whether UNDP envisaged any initiatives to combat desertification and drought in Africa as a whole and in the countries of northern Africa in particular.

57. Mr. ZAPATA (Observer for Argentina) said that his Government attached very great importance to the environment. His delegation endorsed the contents of the report of the Administrator and noted with satisfaction the preparations for the 1992 Conference.
58. Mr. THUN-HOHENSTEIN (Austria) said that environmental degradation did not respect national frontiers, and concern about the environment must often be a transboundary concern. It was fundamental for an organization such as UNDP to bring development efforts into line with environmental protection and not let them run counter to it.
59. The "greening" of traditional development thinking was a difficult undertaking, and the distribution of the burden among States still aroused controversy. There was no alternative, however, and eventually all countries would be better off. UNDP must play its vital role in making sustainable development operational and further speed up its action to that end. Action on the environment could easily be too late, but never too early.
60. Mr. PENZIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation noted with satisfaction the increased attention given by UNDP to environmental problems. Indeed, most UNDP-funded projects were related in some degree to environmental issues, and both the environment and the projects themselves would benefit from that increased attention.
61. It agreed with the emphasis on co-ordination and on the catalytic role to be played by UNDP. While still seeking to realize its potential in individual country programmes, UNDP should concentrate on enhancing environmental activities in its global and interregional programmes, in co-operation as appropriate with UNEP, FAO and WHO, a point that had been made by his delegation during consideration of the agenda item on global and interregional projects.
62. Mr. HEIN (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the twenty-fifth FAO Conference had passed a resolution on sustainable development calling, *inter alia*, for higher priority to be given to the prevention of environmental degradation and a strengthening of co-operation with other United Nations organizations. FAO had also been reinforcing its activities related to environment and sustainable agriculture by introducing environmental impact assessment procedures and establishing an inter-departmental task force in its Field Programme. It would collaborate with UNDP in the further development of environment-related activities, especially the implementation of the EMG.
63. Mr. EL GOUATH (Mauritania) said that a country like his own with a large desert territory had necessarily to be concerned with environmental issues. His delegation endorsed many of the points made by the Australian delegation but it regretted that the Administrator had not taken account in his report before the Council of General Assembly resolution 44/172. That resolution concerned desertification and drought, and UNDP should be a focal point for the treatment of the issue. His delegation had wanted the resolution to address the two complementary topics of the environment and the 1992 Conference.

64. Lastly, it was not for UNDP to define environmental principles or issues, since the 1992 Conference had been convened for the purpose. The Administrator's report was a very comprehensive and technical one that should be given further consideration at a future session.

65. Mr. GUCOVSKY (Deputy Assistant Administrator and Director, Technical Advisory Division) said that UNDP fully agreed with the representative of Libya that activities to combat desertification and drought warranted the highest priority. In addition to the many country and some regional projects being executed in Africa, there was also the extensive programme of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO). There were currently 67 UNSO-funded projects amounting to \$US 27.2 million.

66. In consultation with regional organizations, UNDP was also helping African countries with their environmental action plans and their preparations for UNCED. One very important initiative was the establishment of an Arab-State centre for research and development on environment and sustainable development, which placed great emphasis on the issues mentioned by the delegation of Libya.

67. UNDP fully agreed with the delegation of the Netherlands concerning the key issue of energy. It had collaborated with UNEP and WRI in the publication of World Resources 1990-91: A Guide to the Global Environment, the first of a series of reports. The Secretariat would be happy to circulate to the Council a detailed note on the Programme's energy activities.

68. The Secretariat agreed with the several delegations, including that of the USSR, which had stressed the importance of global and interregional programmes. The data indicated that such programmes were devoting increasing resources to issues directly related to the environment. It also agreed with the many delegations, including those of Australia and Austria, which had said that much more needed to be done. With the Council's guidance on policy and with some extra funding, UNDP would accomplish more. Some of the achievements of the past two years had been made possible by the generous extrabudgetary contributions of a few countries, such as Norway. But more funding was needed; the EMC, for example, would require extra funding if they were to become an integral part of all activities.

69. On the question of the definition of environmental projects, it should be noted that, in annex III to his report, the Administrator had retained definition type A as a basic yardstick. Types B and C had certainly given rise to differences of opinion but the important thing, as most delegations had stressed, was that all UNDP technical co-operation activities should give due weight to sustainable development and the environment. The Administrator and his staff were very aware of that need. When the Council took up the country, regional and interregional programmes for the fifth cycle, it would surely find much greater emphasis on all environmental problems. As the representative of Brazil had noted, one third of the projects in Brazil's country programme were already directly environment-related. The same was true of many other countries.

70. UNDP welcomed the importance attached to collaboration in the statements made by the representatives of the specialized agencies. One of the Administrator's cardinal objectives was, in fact, to work in close concert

with the other components of the United Nations system. He fully recognized, however, that priorities differed from one country to another, and the countries must be given the means to define their own priorities.

71. On the question of the Tropical Forestry Action Plans (TFAPs), raised by the representative of Norway, the Secretariat agreed with some of the criticism, which was, in fact, reflected in the evaluation report currently under review by FAO. The Council could rest assured that FAO and all the participants in the TFAPs were taking the necessary steps to correct their shortcomings and ensure that what the Administrator said in his report would in fact be done.

72. The Administrator was grateful for all the constructive suggestions made by members of the Council and assured them that at least some progress would be reported at the next session.

73. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished the Drafting Group to prepare a draft decision on the sub-item.

74. It was so decided.

(xiv) THE ROLE OF UNDP IN COMBATING HIV AND AIDS (DP/1990/91)

75. Mr. ROTHERMEL (Director, Division for Global and Interregional Programmes) said that a repeated theme at the current session had been that development should lead not only to economic growth but also to a positive transformation in the quality of people's lives. One of the most serious obstacles to such a transformation was the growing phenomenon of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), which were therefore matters of great concern to UNDP.

76. In recognition of the contribution that UNDP could make in tackling the social and economic effects of the epidemic, the WHO/UNDP Alliance to combat AIDS had been jointly conceived in 1988. The note by the Administrator on the role of UNDP in combating HIV and AIDS (DP/1990/91) summarized some of the actions taken since then: strenuous efforts had been made to strengthen the capacity of Governments to deal with the epidemic, first by seeking a better understanding of the problem and secondly by assisting Governments with their national prevention and control plans, as well as supporting specific projects.

77. That collaborative effort served as a good example of the use of the relative strengths of each organization and had ensured a more co-ordinated response to the epidemic by the international community. The Director-General of WHO had recently described the Alliance as a most important means by which WHO and UNDP could provide support to national AIDS-control programmes. There could therefore be some satisfaction that a collaborative arrangement to assist Governments was in place and that every country in the world had devised a national AIDS plan. The magnitude of the international response had been unprecedented, but the threat left no room for complacency.

78. UNDP was sharpening its focus on areas of its particular expertise such as community participation and working with NGOs. It also had experience of working with groups particularly susceptible to infection, such as women and the poor, and it was playing an increasingly active role through national IPFs to help with management and education activities.

79. Although not mentioned in the note by the Administrator, progress was being made in applied research and training under the global blood safety initiative approved by the Governing Council in 1988. UNDP continued to play its traditional role in supporting Governments with their planning and development requirements, including those related to HIV infection and AIDS.

80. At its special session in February 1990, the Council had decided to consider at its current session the undertaking of a study of the socio-economic impact of the AIDS pandemic. Paragraph 9 of the Administrator's note contained a proposal to initiate a preparatory phase of such a study: what was envisaged was a multidisciplinary analysis on a country- or community-specific basis. A concurrent effort to strengthen institutional capacities in developing countries to carry out research on the effects of the HIV epidemic was an important aspect of the undertaking. The Administrator sought the Council's views on that proposal and on the proposal for strengthening the Programme's internal capacity to respond more effectively. However, both proposals would entail additional funding.

81. Dr. MERSON (Director, WHO Global Programme on AIDS) said that, in his short time as Director of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS, he had realized the importance of the collaboration between UNDP and WHO, particularly the WHO/UNDP Alliance to combat AIDS, in facing the immense challenges of preventing HIV infection and caring for persons with AIDS. He was able to assure the Council that the efforts would continue unabated, as would the commitment to provide global leadership in the fight against the epidemic.

82. The priorities were clear. First, collaboration with national AIDS-control programmes must be strengthened and the best ways must be found to integrate AIDS-control activities with other disease-control programmes. Secondly, WHO would accelerate its research and development activities, including support for the testing of new drugs and vaccines and intervention studies to identify ways of sustaining changes in high-risk behaviour.

83. Thirdly, WHO would continue to deal innovatively with the problem of complacency, finding ways of presenting the extent of the pandemic and demonstrating its social, economic and development implications. It was alarming that, in many parts of the world where AIDS had been of low prevalence, it was currently on the rise. If infections increased very rapidly in the low-prevalence countries during the early 1990s, the projection of 15 to 20 million cumulative infections by 2000 would need to be revised significantly upward and by then at least 80 per cent of infections would be in developing countries and transmitted heterosexually.

84. The fourth priority was to continue to play a leading role in the area of human rights and non-discrimination. For example, the Director-General of WHO had recently suggested to all member States that they should review their national HIV/AIDS policies and laws and repeal any which discriminated against infected persons.

85. WHO looked forward to working closely with UNDP in all those efforts. The two organizations must act promptly and with determination in order to prevent an even greater tragedy.

86. Mr. BABINGTON (Australia), speaking on behalf of the delegations of New Zealand and Australia, said that the number of persons currently known to be infected with HIV and the projections of future levels of infection were alarming. The epidemic was a global one, but its effects would be particularly pronounced in the developing countries. The delegations he was representing fully supported the efforts of UNDP to help combat the problem. The WHO/UNDP Alliance was a milestone, combining the strength of WHO as the international leader in health policy and of UNDP as a leader in socio-economic development.

87. The note by the Administrator suggested that the time had come to move from the initial phase to the next phase of increasing the understanding of the development implications of the epidemic. That was the underlying message of Council decision 90/9. The delegations he was representing supported that decision but thought that any study must be directly relevant to individual country and/or community circumstances. They strongly supported the Administrator's proposal in paragraph 9 of his note that preparatory work for the study should be undertaken with SPR funds and that, in the second phase, longer-term studies should be undertaken at the country or community level. It was important that the exercise should help to develop capacities to forecast and plan for the longer-term effects of the epidemic.

88. With regard to UNDP personnel policies and practices, the delegations he was representing commended the initiative of the United Nations system in preparing a booklet on HIV/AIDS for all staff members and their families. More work should be done to develop personnel policies in respect of AIDS, and they would be interested to learn from the Secretariat of any progress in developing guiding principles for such policies.

89. Mr. DE BEER (Netherlands) said that the main reason why his delegation felt that time should be spent discussing the HIV/AIDS epidemic was because of its direct impact on development in view of its growth, scope, and the social groups it affected most. His delegation still supported the WHO/UNDP Alliance even though in the past, it had criticized the emphasis on words with too little implementing action. Since the Alliance was several years old, the Secretariat might perhaps indicate whether the wording of the agreement still matched requirements; what the feedback from the field had been and how the field-level collaboration was developing.

90. The Global Programme on AIDS had played and would continue to play a major role in co-ordinating efforts to combat HIV/AIDS: it had helped to create world awareness of the problem and to set up national AIDS programmes in virtually every country; the name of the Programme's former Director would always be linked to that success. The time had come, however, to transform the objectives into reality and WHO had logically turned to UNDP as a natural partner. But the partnership should not be a limited one and other organizations both inside and outside the United Nations system should be invited to join in the effort.



91. Turning to the matters dealt with in the note by the Administrator, he said that his delegation agreed that all resident representatives should be urged to ensure that HIV/AIDS activities were included in the programmes under the fifth cycle. It noted with satisfaction that an increasing number of field offices were receiving requests from Governments for assistance but wished to know whether there was enough knowledge in the field to appraise those requests. The Secretariat might also explain what was meant by the statement in paragraph 4 that UNDP was to strengthen its capacity to assist Governments.

92. His delegation agreed with the conclusions contained in paragraphs 8 and 9 and welcomed the efforts made by UNDP to co-ordinate with other relevant organizations. In the preparatory-phase studies, UNDP would presumably make use of existing WHO and other studies. The Administrator should report to the Council at its next session on the results of the first phase and his plans for the longer term. On the basis of such a report, the Government of the Netherlands would then determine whether it was in a position to contribute to the follow-up activity.

93. The innovations described in paragraph 10 were undoubtedly needed but, while UNDP had a role to play, it could not be expected to do all the work itself. The major purpose of the Alliance and of the UNDP role in the United Nations system was to determine how a contribution could best be made to the needs of the developing countries. If such a contribution required strengthening of UNDP capacity, his delegation would like to know how that would be done.

94. There were a number of matters not dealt with in the note by the Administrator. First, it was not clear how the regional bureaux were involved in the activities. It had been suggested elsewhere that the Division for Global and Interregional Programmes (DGIP) should be brought under the direct control of the Administrator because of its functional relationship with the regional bureaux. His delegation would welcome some information on the relationship between the Division and the bureaux with regard to HIV/AIDS activities.

95. Secondly, there were many particular problems that warranted the full attention of UNDP and other bodies: one such problem was the vulnerability of women and children, in particular the transmission of infection from mother to foetus or infant and the increase in some countries to 11 per cent of the infection rate among children under five. Where possible UNDP should support activities to combat such problems.

96. Lastly, it was noteworthy that no countries from the Latin American and Caribbean region were listed in paragraph 3. Since the WHO figures showed that there were problems in that region also, he presumed that, if requested, UNDP would also provide assistance there.

97. Mr. CRUSE (France) said that the primary role of UNDP was to inform countries affected by the pandemic of the economic and social implications for their development and to help them to take appropriate preventive measures. There was already sufficient data for the most seriously affected population groups to be targeted. His delegation was therefore in favour of the proposed study and the initiation of the preparatory phase, which should be undertaken in close collaboration with WHO and other relevant bodies, as well as with

98. The UNDP resident representatives would have an important role to play in that area during the fifth programming cycle, and his delegation noted with satisfaction their recruitment to the campaign at the country level and in particular among community organizations. Local NGOs could indeed play a decisive part at the village level in disseminating information about the pandemic and about preventive measures. His delegation would thus support any resolution endorsing the proposed study so as to enable UNDP and the international community to offer an appropriate response to the problems of the countries affected by HIV/AIDS.

99. Ms. HELLSTROM (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, said that the Nordic countries had endorsed the concept of the WHO/UNDP Alliance and the utilization of the comparative advantages of each organization to respond to the needs identified in national AIDS programmes. The field-based structure of UNDP and its socio-economic skills ought to have led to the speedy implementation of programmes in the developing countries. However, the Alliance seemed to have made a slow start, and there was apparently a need for concertation of efforts within the United Nations system. The opportunity for WHO to make use of the UNDP field network should not be missed.

100. The Nordic countries would like to be informed about the obstacles which the Alliance had apparently encountered. UNDP must intensify, both inside and outside the Alliance, its efforts to mobilize support for and participation in socio-economic programmes in the communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

101. Mr. MACARTHUR (United States of America) said that his delegation endorsed many of the comments already made on the WHO/UNDP Alliance, which had made a good start. It supported the proposed allocation of \$US 150,000 for a review of studies on the social and economic impact of the AIDS epidemic. It was pleased with the high level of co-ordination on the issue among United Nations agencies but stressed the importance of co-ordination both with such agencies and with bilateral donors. For example, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had already spent much money on mathematical modelling of the social and economic impact of the epidemic, and it was not clear that UNDP was aware of those efforts. UNDP should therefore begin its initiative by convening a consultation meeting of bilateral and multilateral agencies working on HIV/AIDS.

102. Miss DOHERTY (United Kingdom) said that the social and economic impact of AIDS was an important area for study, but it was first necessary to establish what was already being done in that area. Her delegation thus supported the United States delegation's suggestion regarding a consultation meeting, which should take place prior to the initiation of the preparatory phase of the proposed study. The United Kingdom had already funded research in that area, and the Ford Foundation and the World Bank were also involved in regional and country-level research. It was to be hoped that the results of the study would pave the way for longer-term work, and her delegation would like to know whether any time-frame had yet been agreed.

103. It was important that the co-ordination role of the Global Programme on AIDS be maintained, and UNDP should therefore continue its close liaison with the Programme. The handbook for staff was a useful management tool. Lastly, her delegation would welcome an assurance that the support given to Governments in national AIDS programmes was compatible with the Global Programme's essential role of preparing short- and medium-term control programmes in consultation with Governments.

104. Mr. ROTHERMEL (Director, Division for Global and Interregional Programmes) said that the guiding principles for personnel policies, to which the representative of Australia had referred, had not yet been issued. UNDP was currently studying the guidelines that had been issued by other organizations.
105. In reply to the questions asked by the representative of the Netherlands, he said that UNDP had discussed with the Director of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS and with other colleagues whether the wording of the Alliance agreement needed to be modified. They had concluded that the Alliance provided a basic framework for overall collaboration and was still adequate for the task. The replies to the questionnaires sent to all field officers indicated that, while the Alliance was not 100 per cent effective, it was working well at the field level in the vast majority of countries. WHO and UNDP certainly wanted to involve other organizations in their partnership: consultations were already advanced with the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the Alliance was working with the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS, the United Nations Standing Committee on AIDS, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, the United Nations Office at Vienna, and other international and non-governmental organizations.
106. Requests received from Governments were certainly appraised, but one reason for the need to increase headquarters and field capacity was to be able to improve such appraisal. With regard to the strengthening of UNDP capacity referred to in paragraph 4 of the note by the Administrator, an attempt was currently being made to determine how UNDP could best respond to the requirements; paragraph 11 indicated some of the steps already taken.
107. As for the relationship between the regional bureaux and the Division for Global and Interregional Programmes the position was that the Division acted as the focal point for HIV/AIDS activities, working closely with the regional bureaux. For example, a programme was under preparation, in collaboration with the Regional Bureau for Africa, on women and AIDS in Africa. The representative of the Netherlands was right to draw attention to the seriousness of the transmission of infection from mother to foetus or infant; a problem that must not be overlooked in field activities.
108. Lastly, on the question of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Secretariat would provide specific information on activities undertaken within the framework of the Alliance in several countries of the region where the prevalence of HIV infection was high.
109. The representative of Sweden had asked about the obstacles encountered by the Alliance. The arrangement was not, as already pointed out, 100 per cent perfect, but WHO and UNDP were seeking to overcome the obstacles as quickly as possible.
110. The suggestion by the representative of the United States concerning consultations was a welcome one; WHO and UNDP were, in fact, planning a conference in 1991 on the social and economic aspects of AIDS and development. Various consultation meetings would undoubtedly be held before that conference.
111. The representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom had suggested that, for the purposes of the proposed study, the data that already existed should be examined. WHO had, in fact, already made an analysis of

existing materials and the Alliance was also working closely with the World Bank in the matter; it welcomed any offers of assistance and information from other bilateral donors. As to the last point raised by the representative of the United Kingdom, UNDP-funded programmes were indeed carried out within the framework of national AIDS plans and were compatible with the Global Programme on AIDS.

112. The PRESIDENT said that, unless he heard any objection, he would take it that the Council wished the Drafting Group to prepare a draft decision on the sub-item.

113. It was so decided.

OTHER MATTERS (agenda item 10) (continued)

(e) REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT OF INTEREST TO UNDP (DP/1990/90)

114. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it a note by the Administrator describing the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit of interest to UNDP (DP/1990/90). If no delegation had any comments to make on the matter, he would assume that the Council wished to take note of that document.

115. It was so decided.

(b) STEPS TAKEN BY UNDP IN RESPONSE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN 1989 (DP/1990/75)

116. Mr. KELLAND (Denmark), speaking on behalf of Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, said that, while the Nordic countries welcomed the constructive elements contained in General Assembly resolution 44/211, they doubted whether any concrete results would follow, particularly with respect to co-ordination. Progress in that area presupposed explicit recognition of the varying needs and circumstances of recipient countries and of the fact that responsibility for co-ordination rested with them.

117. All recipient countries had a right to expect the efforts of the United Nations system to be well co-ordinated, and to choose to provide that co-ordination themselves. The issue did not concern those developing countries which had sufficient administrative capacity to carry out the co-ordination themselves or those which received such a limited amount of aid that co-ordination was hardly relevant. It concerned rather the countries which needed support for their co-ordination capacity or wished the United Nations system, under the leadership of UNDP, to do part of the work during a transitional period.

118. The Nordic countries therefore suggested the adoption of a decision providing that, (a) within country programmes, support should be given for building the co-ordination capacity of the recipient country to ensure that all external inputs were integrated in its development process; and (b) every recipient country had the right to demand that UNDP should support efforts to establish one single programme for the activities which the recipient country wished to have incorporated in that single programme.

19. It was not for UNDP to decide what other parts of the United Nations system should do, but the Council could recommend to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly that other parts of the system should be asked to comply with requests for more comprehensive country programmes. The Governments of the Nordic countries intended to take the issue up in the relevant governing body in any case where the organization concerned had not respected the wishes of recipients in that regard.

120. The current session of the Council was unique in that the negotiations on a new support-cost arrangement enabled it to influence the shape of operational activities. While the new arrangement should respect the tripartite nature of the system, that did not exclude increased competition from outside the system with respect to execution and implementation, for such competition would increase efficiency and thus benefit the recipients, as well as providing a healthy stimulus to the executing agencies.

121. The issue of national execution had been linked to the support-cost arrangement but, logically, the two issues were separate. National execution was, however, an important question with respect to operational activities and the Nordic countries favoured it as the ultimate objective. It should gradually increase in step with the increased capacities of the recipient countries and it had, in fact, increased quite rapidly over the past decade.

122. However, an across-the-board introduction of national execution would not take sufficient account of the varying circumstances and capacities of recipients, with the possible result of UNDP execution by the back door. That would not be in conformity with the tripartite nature of the system and would lead to duplication. The establishment of special units within recipient Governments to administer UNDP assistance might make it even more difficult to internalize United Nations inputs.

123. The operational activities of UNDP and the United Nations system at large should be consciously geared to the needs of the 1990s. That meant moving away from systems which encouraged the employment of expensive expatriate experts and from the design by executing agencies of projects which were not integrated into the development process of the recipient countries.

124. The Governments of the Nordic countries hoped that the objectives he had just outlined and the need for greater co-ordination and coherence would be borne fully in mind in the preparation of the programmes for the fifth cycle and in the decision on the new support-cost arrangement.

125. The PRESIDENT said that, if no other delegation had any comments to make on the matter, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the Administrator's document and wanted the Drafting Group to prepare a draft decision on the sub-item.

126. It was so decided.

(a) UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM REGULAR AND EXTRABUDGETARY TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION EXPENDITURES (DP/1989/60 and 74)

127. Mr. GUCOVSKY (Deputy Assistant Administrator and Director, Technical Advisory Division) said that the current report on the United Nations system regular and extrabudgetary technical co-operation expenditures (DP/1990/74) contained, as usual, data and analyses of the regular and extrabudgetary

expenditures of the United Nations agencies during the past decade. To complete the picture of total technical co-operation assistance from the United Nations system, data had also been included on expenditure financed from UNDP central resources, UNDP-administered funds, the World Food Programme, and the United Nations Children's Fund, together with certain data on disbursement from the World Bank and the International Development Association. The main purpose of analysing the data over an extended period of 10 years was to identify trends, discuss the behaviour of the various expenditure/contribution categories, and provide a picture of changes. That was why a major part of the report dealt with growth rates rather than nominal figures.

128. Mr. PENZIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the document (DP/1990/74) had been distributed in great haste, in one language only, and bore the prefix "draft". That situation was regrettably not unprecedented. His delegation reserved the right to speak on the matter at a later stage.

129. Mr. HAEMMERLI (Acting Secretary of the Council) said that document DP/1989/60, which contained the data for 1988, had been submitted to the Council in similar circumstances in June 1989. It was currently available in all languages, and the Council was therefore able to take action on it.

130. The information contained in the current report (DP/1990/74) had been received too late for the Secretariat to arrange to have the document translated, but it was nevertheless putting it before the Council for information purposes. The Council would be able to take action on it in 1991, a year late once again, when it would be available in all the official languages.

131. The PRESIDENT said that if no delegations had any comments to make on the matter, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Administrator on United Nations system regular and extrabudgetary technical co-operation expenditures in 1988 (DP/1989/60).

132. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 8.40 p.m.