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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST PART* OF THE 36th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 15 June 1990, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. POPESCU (Romania)

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* The summary record of the second part of the meeting appears as document DP/1990/SR.36/Add.1.

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (agenda item 4) (continued)

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

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

1. Mrs. MARCOS DE DIVECO (Observer for Argentina) said that, in Argentina and the other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, women had suffered more from the economic downturn, while the recovery had resulted only in a relatively slow improvement in their condition. In the circumstances, her Government intended to make radical changes in the role of women in development, as both participants and beneficiaries, and to concentrate in particular on eliminating the factors contributing to the deterioration in their condition. More concretely, it hoped to pay special attention to gender-specific problems in the fifth programming cycle and the programme approach, and trusted that UNDP and the donor countries would take note of its wishes. It had already prepared several measures which it would translate into projects for women with the aid of UNIFEM.

2. She noted with satisfaction that the proportion of women in UNDP's basic staff was growing, and hoped that similar progress would be made in the categories of consultants, volunteers and project staff. She also welcomed the activities of the Division for Women in Development in training field office staff and UNDP staff-members generally and making them aware of issues affecting women.

3. Mr. OLOKILIKOKO (Observer for the Congo), underlining the important contribution that women could and should make to development, said that his Government had adopted a plan of economic and social action for 1990, whereby it would endeavour to mobilize all the country's productive forces, including women, in the interests of development. It had also, in collaboration with UNDP, set up a project aimed specifically at supporting the integration of Congolese women into the development process.

4. With regard to the design of country programmes within the framework of the fifth programming cycle and the need to devote increasing attention to women-specific problems in the analysis of the national needs and resources the programmes entailed, he pointed out that the Congo had to define a comprehensive strategy for the economic and social integration of women. Such a strategy would aim at demystifying the economic role of women, freeing them from household tasks and making them more than just cogs in the wheels of the consumer society. At the social level, it should try to overcome the age-old mental attitudes which hampered women's development in the towns, and, still more so, in the rural areas.

5. Mr. MACDONALD (Australia), speaking on behalf of the delegations of New Zealand and Australia, said he noted that UNDP had made progress in integrating gender issues into project formulation and implementation and into its own personnel policies. Action was still needed on several fronts, however, to protect the achievements made and to promote the

women-in-development (WID) cause. The delegations he was representing saw merit in the proposal to establish a system whereby UNDP would monitor the situation comprehensively and report periodically to the Council on the implementation of all WID-related decisions.

6. UNDP should provide more support to the field offices by supplying WID expertise and gender training. It was important to raise staff consciousness both at headquarters and in the field, so that WID issues did not stand apart from other programme and project activities, particularly in relation to the environment, poverty and the AIDS epidemic. He hoped that the Administrator would report to the Governing Council on measures taken to that end.

7. To make it possible for the Council's WID guidelines to be applied, more resources should be allocated to WID activities. It would be advisable to have funds earmarked for that purpose under the Special Programme Resources (SPR) category. Such funding would provide greater predictability and highlight the importance of the issue.

8. The delegations he was representing hoped that the Administrator could provide an update on the implementation by UNDP of General Assembly resolution 42/62, which called for the establishment of five-year targets at each level for the percentage of women in professional and decision-making positions within all United Nations agencies and bodies.

9. Mr. CHAUDOUET (France) said it was most significant that the repercussions of projects obviously differed according to whether they related to women or to men and that structural adjustment policies affected women more than men, particularly in the case of single-parent families. However, Governments and aid institutions had become more aware of the problem of integrating women into development.

10. That being so, it would be useful if gender-specific statistics were available so that the impact of projects on people could be measured. Moreover, it was essential that the training of UNDP staff-members should enable them to understand the problem of women in development, and accustom them to examine projects at every stage in the light of the situations and respective needs of both men and women, as participants and beneficiaries alike, so that women could be systematically integrated into projects rather than merely given special consideration. It would therefore be useful to establish guidelines in conjunction with other institutions. The suggested recommendations to planning ministries might well be productive.

11. In view of the difficulties encountered in ensuring that the women-in-development issue became an operational factor at every level of the organization and at every stage of projects, his delegation supported the proposal that the staff of the Division for Women in Development should be increased and that it should be allocated greater resources.

12. Mr. MACARTHUR (United States of America) said that his delegation strongly supported UNDP's women-in-development policy, goals and implementation strategy. It agreed with the Administrator that the systematic analysis of national development requirements and resources entailed by the country programme would need to be increasingly gender-sensitive and

considered that much more would need to be done if gender issues were to be adequately addressed in the fifth cycle programmes. While his delegation recognized the need for women-specific projects in the short term, it urged UNDP to increase its efforts to ensure that women participated in, contributed to and benefited from all development assistance.

13. While the number of women at professional levels within UNDP had increased, women were still seriously under-represented in senior managerial positions and in the resident representative ranks, as well as among consultants, volunteers and project staff. There were encouraging signs in the gender-sensitive staff training activities, including the plan to identify local training resources and help the authorities to develop their capacity to provide operationally based training courses. Noting the Administrator's opinion that the requirements relating to WID training had to be balanced against the many other demands on UNDP's scarce training resources, he pointed out that when resources were limited they should be used wisely and that the development of women, who represented half the world population, was surely a top priority. His delegation commended the Administrator on his intention to review all UNDP manuals and procedural documentation to ensure that gender issues were integrated into each subject covered. It was also pleased to note UNDP's current and planned activities to supply WID technical expertise for programme and project development and to foster inter-agency co-ordination and collaboration.

14. It was 15 years since the first Governing Council decision on women in development had been adopted, and his delegation was concerned that more progress had not been made and that so many of the implementation measures described in the report still lay in the future. It was to be hoped that progress could be accelerated.

15. Mr. EL-FERJANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his Government had prepared various plans and strategies to integrate women into development and that they were participating effectively in all areas of economic and social life; women already represented over 60 per cent of the workforce in many areas of activity. His Government, which was convinced that women could play an effective role and that they constituted an indicator of social maturity and progress, hoped to be able to allocate greater resources for activities to their benefit.

16. Miss DOHERTY (United Kingdom) said her delegation welcomed the Administrator's report, which showed encouraging progress being made in some areas. Noting that some field offices had helped national WID units to develop plans for women, she believed it essential that women's issues were not marginalized. She noted the Administrator's opinion on the need for a special effort to see that gender issues were adequately addressed during preparations for the fifth programming cycle.

17. The Administrator had rightly emphasized the importance of training both for project personnel and for women from the developing countries. However, paragraph 27 of the report implied that the staff-member responsible solely for WID training was not to continue throughout 1990 on a full-time basis, which was disquieting. The low proportion of UNDP professional staff who had attended training courses in 1988 and 1989 indicated that a full-time post needed to continue in the immediate future. To show commitment to its policy

on women's issues, UNDP should continue to give them a high priority alongside other requirements. It was also important that all staff received training in gender awareness and that the issue should be integrated into all training courses. Her delegation would like to be informed about the outcome of the regional workshop mentioned in paragraph 28, which it saw as a test case in integrating WID issues. It welcomed the Administrator's intention to see that gender issues were included appropriately in each section of manuals or documents, which might also be done in the wider context of applying the recommendations of the Human Development Report, 1990. Several members of the Governing Council had described the positive action that had been taken in their own countries to strengthen the contributions of women to development. Progress had been achieved in some areas, but it had yet to reach out to the vast majority of women, who were always left on the sidelines.

18. Mr. RADE (Netherlands) said that the Division for Women in Development should be fully involved in the fifth programming cycle and at every stage of the country programmes, since the latter would need to be increasingly gender-sensitive. He wished to know what progress UNDP had made in establishing the procedures requested by General Assembly resolution 44/171 to collect and report gender disaggregated data concerning project personnel, including consultants, and beneficiaries. As for the recruitment of women to senior staff posts, the Administrator had given some indications on the current situation, but had quoted no figures to show the progress accomplished in recent years. His delegation did not fully share the opinion that single staff of both genders had special problems in fulfilling their representational duties in developing countries. In the Netherlands diplomatic service, it was believed that single staff-members were just as able to perform their duties as married ones. Noting that the recruitment figures for women as consultants, volunteers and project staff remained low and that ways should be found to encourage more women applicants in those categories, he asked what precise ideas the UNDP had for achieving that end.

19. He fully endorsed the opinion that the WID issue was not a special consideration in the context of projects but an integral dimension of development, and he shared the views expressed on the subject by the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom. He welcomed the Administrator's intention to review all manuals to reflect that view.

20. His delegation noted with concern the shortage of staff in the Division for Women in Development. Supporting the remarks made by the representatives of France and Finland in that regard, he hoped that the Division would be given the resources to carry out its work.

21. Mr. SOUTTER (Canada) said he congratulated UNDP on taking some positive and important steps towards gender equality despite the major difficulties it had to face in that respect, as indeed occurred in most bureaucracies. The results were not very satisfactory, however, as indicated in the figures given in paragraphs 18 and 23 of the report (DP/1990/26). It was unclear what the real barriers to the advancement of women were. If, as had been stated, it was a question of attitudes, it had to be established whose attitudes they were and why the persons concerned adopted them. The problem should be addressed at the headquarters level because it could only be exacerbated in the field. Another question that arose was what needed to be done to overcome the institutional barriers. It was his own conviction that hiring more women would not in itself resolve either problem.

22. It was undoubtedly a good idea that multilateral and bilateral agencies should exchange views and experience. The WID Directorate at the Canadian International Development Agency was currently undergoing an evaluation and would be happy to share the results with UNDP and its Division for Women in Development. The gender-sensitive applicant data base, which included a WID sensitivity variable for all applicants, that was currently being tested by UNDP, could be useful for national hiring procedures.

23. The Division for Women in Development, with its small but dedicated staff, had accomplished much. Given the size of the work still to be done, however, his delegation earnestly hoped that the Division would be granted more resources.

24. Mr. HAMADZIRIPI (Zimbabwe) said his delegation welcomed UNDP's efforts to take account of gender responsiveness in its operational activities. His country's planning authorities had asked UNIFEM to analyse their draft of the next five-year plan to ensure that gender issues were integrated into it.

25. He agreed with the delegation of Finland that UNDP should endeavour to translate the objectives that had been set into action and into specific operations. Gender-specific training should thus be conducted for both men and women at every level. Together with the delegations of Uganda and Zambia, his own delegation suggested that UNDP and its Division for Women in Development should do more to co-ordinate the assistance provided by the various United Nations agencies, bilateral donors, non-governmental organizations and others for various activities at the grass-roots level and to enhance women's access to credit, education and safe motherhood.

26. Mrs. ZACHOROWSKA (Poland) said she noted with satisfaction UNDP's efforts to ensure the advancement of women at every administrative level and the measures adopted by the Division for Women in Development, UNIFEM and other bodies to enable women to participate more actively in the entire development process. Any radical change in a country's economic situation, as well as structural reorganization and debt relief programmes, undoubtedly affected women first, so UNDP operations should always take account of that fact. As for possible specific measures to recruit more women experts for project support, she approved the idea put forward by the delegation of Finland to set up a data bank of the female potential in the countries and regions.

27. Dr. THAPA (World Health Organization) said that she endorsed the strategies proposed by the Administrator for the closer integration of women into the development process. Those strategies fully complemented WHO's integrated strategy. Since women were the primary health source and since improvement of the health of women and of the whole population was achieved through social development, WHO was trying to help countries to take women's points of view and specific needs into consideration when preparing health programmes and to involve women in their implementation, particularly at the operational level in running, for instance, district health systems. The Governing Council might be interested to hear that WHO had decided to take Women, Health and Development (WHD) as the topic for technical discussion at the World Health Assembly in 1992 and would like to co-operate with the various agencies of the United Nations system in promoting WHD.

28. Mrs. SHALABY (Observer for Egypt) said that UNDP had made an important contribution to integrating women in development, as evidenced by the projects carried out by the programme and the growing participation of women in rural areas in implementing country programmes. Arab women had a special role in the family and society, but also in the productive structures. Special attention should therefore be paid to the obstacles hampering their participation in development. In that context, her delegation would like to see greater co-operation between UNDP, the various agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and Governments. It hoped that the field offices would be given greater support, particularly financial, to help promote the women-in-development process.

29. Ms. REID (Programme Director, Division for Women in Development), summing up the debate and the issues raised, said that she largely agreed with the members of the Council who wondered why the WID process had not moved forward as fast as it should have done in the last 15 years. In many respects the situation had not changed at all. She was unable to say whether that was due entirely to the nature of the problem, which could develop only slowly, or whether the ways and means used had been inadequate and needed to be reconsidered.

30. Some members of the Council had asked UNDP to show concrete evidence of its WID strategy. At headquarters, UNDP worked mainly through training. In fact there had been a significant decrease in training during the first half of 1990, but there should be a further improvement in the second half. In the field, the work was more difficult: UNDP had to find experts and consultants for recruitment and then make them known. UNDP also had to try to recruit as many local experts as possible.

31. Members of the Council were concerned about how UNDP was going to approach the issue in the run-up to the fifth programming cycle and the country programmes. The task there was truly monumental, because no national programmers in the countries had so far been trained to take WID into account. Unless considerable progress was made over the next two years, there was a risk that the countries would once again have programmes for the fifth cycle which did not meet women's needs. At UNDP headquarters, hearts and minds were already convinced, but that conviction had yet to materialize in programming. The lack of perceived confidence in the field meant that headquarters had to give specific support.

32. To measure the impact of its activities, UNDP's only solution was to follow the instructions of the General Assembly (resolution 44/171) and carry out a systematic gender disaggregation of data. The same should be done with the data collected for NATCAP purposes.

33. In reply to the delegation of Pakistan, which wished to see more women-specific programmes in that country, she said that the Resident Representative in Pakistan was currently re-examining all UNDP projects to ensure that they included a female component. The Government of Pakistan had also asked the UNV programme to establish a nucleus of volunteers specially trained in WID activities and a mission had been sent to Pakistan in May 1990 in response to that request. She wished to assure the Council that the co-ordination of co-operation of that kind had improved. Application lists and files were being exchanged with bilateral aid agencies and overlapping of activities had become much rarer.

34. There had been genuine progress since 1986 in recruiting professional women for UNDP, including the highest administrative positions, but there were still some deficiencies, particularly because it was not enough to recruit female staff-members; it was also important to retain them and it was difficult to moderate the mobility requirement in their favour. There was also the question, raised by the delegation of the Netherlands, of representational functions, which had always been tacitly assigned to the administrators' wives. UNDP headquarters had not yet learnt to practise total neutrality with respect to its professional staff-members and to assign them tasks involving no gender-related considerations.

35. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council might wish to ask the Drafting Group to prepare a draft decision on the subject of women in development.

36. It was so decided.

(vi) MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DP/1990/23)

37. Mr. PALMLUND (Co-ordinator, Management Development Programme), introducing the report of the Administrator on the Management Development Programme (MDP) (DP/1990/23), said that the Programme had been created in 1988 to strengthen UNDP's capacity to assist Governments which needed to reorganize or strengthen their institutions for the implementation of essential political and economic restructuring during the 1990s. MDP had already developed plans and projects in Mongolia, Guyana, Uganda, Tunisia, Jordan, Honduras, Madagascar, Angola and some Eastern European countries to streamline administrative services, management training, research and consultancy so as to enable those countries to implement more effectively their structural adjustment programmes and other measures such as debt renegotiation and revenue collection. MDP's role was limited to helping Governments build the management capacity necessary for their reforms and it refrained from offering any ideological or political advice. Paragraph 6 of the report contained a list of the fields and issues currently dominating the work of MDP. With experience, the thrust of the Programme could be diversified, following the conclusions of a workshop held in February 1990 on the basis of a first evaluation of the Programme.

38. The number of requests for MDP assistance was currently 75, reconnaissance and/or programming missions had been undertaken to 51 countries, and 21 programmes had been approved, to which the MDP contribution was \$21 million. Its success had been such that in many cases the MDP contribution would be lower than the \$1 million per country provided for in the guidelines. Middle-income countries would have only very small amounts for follow-up activities. In some cases, funds would have to come from the IPF during the current or the next cycle, from other donors or from the Government itself.

39. The guidelines for the Programme provided that MDP funds could be used as seed money. That had been done very successfully in Guyana. It was to be hoped that donor Governments would respond as positively to other MDP requests for support. The Programme as a whole could be seen as a seed, which should be backed up more solidly by a fund-in-trust.

40. General Assembly resolution 44/211 recommended a programme approach in development co-operation. MDP was already practising such an approach in the field of capacity enhancement in the public sector.
41. Mr. DEMONGEOT (United States of America) said his delegation was pleased to note that the Management Development Programme had aroused much interest. It urged close co-ordination with other donors, both multilateral and bilateral, such as USAID, at all stages of the implementation of the Programme's activities. UNDP had been right to subject MDP activities to the same quality criteria as other UNDP activities and to accord due importance to programme monitoring, including strengthened tripartite reviews for MDP projects.
42. The Administrator had recommended "a clear strategy for priority interventions, based on a comprehensive overview". His delegation agreed with that approach, because building up national management capacities in the key areas of policy analysis and formulation, resource management, civil service reform and the management of development programmes could not but be beneficial in the long run to the implementation of Governments' development projects.
43. Mr. SOUTTER (Canada) said he noted the very positive results of MDP implementation. However, up to 1 February 1990, only 19 per cent of funds allocated to Africa had been committed, as against up to 61 per cent in other regions. It was important that UNDP, and particularly its resident representatives, should ensure that African Governments were aware of the Programme and its benefits. On project execution, over half were being implemented by the Office for Project Services. His delegation felt sure that the private sector, universities, specialized institutions, both national and international, and TCDC could also be used. If UNDP could make management needs assessment reports available to donors, it would also be most helpful in attracting bilateral funds to follow-on activities at the country level.
44. On the subject of funding for the fifth programming cycle, his delegation would welcome quantified estimates of what might be required. It feared that the \$30 million proposed under the SPRs would be insufficient. It also wondered whether IPF funding would be able to maintain the Programme's momentum. While it would certainly encourage UNDP to continue to promote bilateral involvement in specific projects, it was strenuously opposed to the establishment of yet another trust fund, whose ultimate impact might be to UNDP's detriment in drawing funds from core contributions.
45. Mr. CRUSE (France) said that his delegation, too, considered that MDP was doing useful work and encouraging Government execution of projects, as the Council had hoped. It was therefore paradoxical that the Administrator should envisage bringing the initial \$60 million budget for the Programme down to \$30 million for the fifth programming cycle.
46. A restricted seminar held recently in Paris, attended by representatives of MDP, on the subject of administrative, budgetary and financial management in developing countries, had led his delegation to the conclusion that the question should be given priority in the 1990s. It felt that UNDP should develop and refine its ongoing project evaluations and refocus its

interventions on the three essential themes of the civil service, the financial services and decentralization. It hoped that a UNDP unit could be set up to consider those topics and thought that UNDP should issue guidelines on such questions, particularly for the use of outside consultants. It also thought that UNDP should call upon various institutions such as ILO to execute management development programmes. His Government would continue to collaborate with MDP, particularly in the African countries.

47. Mr. MALMIERCA (Cuba) said he, too, thought that MDP, after barely two years in existence, had shown extremely positive results. His delegation attached great importance to the Programme and urged UNDP to apply flexible criteria to that type of aid in practice. His Government hoped to be able to participate in the funding of MDP.

48. Mr. SØRENSEN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the four Nordic countries: Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, said that capacity building should aim at increasing the long-term self-reliance of the recipients. MDP could play an important role in that regard, particularly in the low-income countries. Unfortunately that priority had not been reflected in the disbursement of funds during the first 18 months of MDP. The Administrator should endeavour to establish more projects in the poorest countries.

49. MDP aid was intended to serve as seed money and to encourage bilateral donors to support follow-up programmes. So far, that had been achieved in only one country. The Administrator should encourage more Governments to allocate their IPF funds to MDP developed programmes, as some had already done. To strengthen the management capacities of low-income countries, it was also important to utilize and strengthen the national human resource base, particularly through involvement of national experts in connection with MDP studies and missions.

50. The Nordic countries would like to see MDP strengthened during the fifth cycle. They hoped that, by 1991, activity levels would have increased enough to form the basis for a thorough discussion at the next session of the Council.

51. Mrs. MARCOS DE DIVECO (Observer for Argentina) said that strengthening management capacity was a top priority for her country, which was attempting to improve, to the widest extent, the State's efficiency in carrying out its functions. Economic and social difficulties had led Argentina to reform its public sector and to pursue a privatization and economic deregulation policy. The private sector would thus take over in all the areas in which it was most efficient. The State's particular role was to guarantee competitive conditions in the private sector and develop social policies giving opportunities for real progress to the most deprived sections of the population.

52. Her Government therefore attached particular importance to MDP and was anxious that it should be maintained and strengthened during the fifth programming cycle. The growing needs and the Programme's success over its first two years of existence militated against a steep reduction in its funding, such as the Administrator was proposing. Her Government hoped to be able to continue to benefit from the Programme in its existing form.

53. Mr. GOPINATHAN (India) recalled that his delegation had always urged that MDP activities should be funded, in the developing countries which so desired, from the IPFs, since that would make for more functional integration of a country's management development activities with the country's goals and priorities. He gave the example of India, where several projects aimed at improving public administration and management had been implemented under its country programme.

54. The members of the Council should beware of duplication when they came to decide the question of thematic funds. If a thematic fund were established for economic policy management, the Council should carefully consider whether MDP should continue to function in its existing form or whether it would not be more advisable to merge the two activities into one, since they were interchangeable. His delegation still preferred, however, MDP funding from IPF funds.

55. Mrs. ZACHOROWSKA (Poland) said her delegation recognized with satisfaction that, in a relatively short period of time, MDP had already responded efficiently to the requests submitted by recipient countries in the form of missions and specific projects. In fact, the Programme had offered countries a wide range of specialized expertise and it was to be hoped that it would continue to do so. Her delegation felt that the successful operation of the Programme was due to the innovative and energetic approach of its Co-ordinator. It was encouraging that the Programme had taken the initiative to assist Governments undertaking major administrative reforms, where the management issue appeared to be a critical one.

56. Poland was among those countries that had received MDP assistance in the form of a reconnaissance mission by high-level experts, who had formulated a policy relating to management aspects and elaborated specific recommendations to be followed by her Government. In conclusion, her delegation wished to stress that, given the important and catalytic role played by MDP, the Programme should continue to receive support and attention.

57. Miss DOHERTY (United Kingdom) said that her delegation was in favour of the use of MDP to help low-income countries manage their public sector more efficiently. She noted that over 60 Governments had requested MDP assistance from UNDP and that two thirds of them had received reconnaissance or programming missions. It was disappointing, however, that the least developed countries, particularly in the African region, did not figure predominantly in the list in table 1 of the report (DP/1990/23).

58. Her delegation favoured IPF funding for MDP activities and hoped that those resources would be used more often when MDP activities coincided with Government priorities, as included in the country programmes. Such activities responded to two of UNDP's major objectives - to ensure the durability of the work carried out and to strengthen national capacity. Her delegation hoped, therefore, that they would be financed from core resources. It was not in favour of the proposal to establish a trust fund.

59. Mr. GABRIEL (World Bank) said, with reference to co-ordination between MDP and multilateral funding institutions, that from the beginning MDP staff-members had done their utmost to keep the relevant departments of the World Bank informed of their activities and to discuss country-specific operations with them. The collaboration had been very productive.

60. The need to improve managerial capacity in Africa was crucial, as had been noted in various recent World Bank studies. It should, however, be recognized that, in the African context, it was more important to take the right steps, after careful analysis, together with Governments, than to move forward with speed.
61. Mr. LUCAS (Guyana) said that MDP was an extremely important instrument through which developing countries could alleviate the inadequacy of their management capacities, particularly in the public sector. Measures should be taken to strengthen MDP, to make it accessible to all who needed it and then to provide it with adequate financial resources. He was thus concerned at the proposal to reduce the SPR resources allocated to MDP.
62. The Administrator had quoted Guyana as an example of the advantages that a country could derive from MDP seed capital. While his Government was grateful for the aid it had received, it stressed that such initiatives needed to receive appropriate follow-up if MDP was actually to attain its desired objectives. That required better co-ordination, particularly with bilateral donors and with other UNDP activities. However, his delegation hoped that the link between IPF and the use of MDP funds would maintain the necessary flexibility.
63. Mr. PALMLUND (Co-ordinator, Management Development Programme), replying to delegations' questions and observations, said he recognized that MDP support to low-income countries, particularly in Africa, had lost momentum. The preparation of the African country programmes had taken longer than those of other countries. However, he assured delegations concerned about the delay that various decisions affecting the countries of sub-Saharan Africa were under consideration and would soon emerge in concrete form. As for the resources available to MDP, it was certainly to be hoped that they would be maintained at least at the current level. The problem for UNDP was the shortage of SPRs. MDP, however, was an important Programme, which should attract additional funds. Its aim should be to provide high-level know-how and to help programming, but not to provide funds except as seed capital, with its activities being basically funded by IPF resources or by bilateral or multilateral donors.
64. It had been emphasized that MDP should co-operate more closely with other United Nations institutions and that the Office for Project Services (OPS) was handling too many MDP projects. However, such projects often had many aspects which were handled by various other organizations under the umbrella of OPS.
65. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished the Drafting Group to begin preparing a draft decision on agenda item 4 (b) (vi).
66. It was so decided.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (continued)

(e) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (continued)

(v) ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE (DP/1990/84)

67. Mr. ROTHERMEL (Director, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people), introducing the report of the Administrator on assistance to the Palestinian people (DP/1990/84), said that in 1989, the Programme had made significant progress. In spite of well-known difficulties, the UNDP Office at Jerusalem had managed to expand its services to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Consultations with the Palestine Liberation Organization had been frank and frequent. He was particularly grateful to the Governments and United Nations organizations which had supplemented the \$25.5 million in SPRs allocated to the Programme since 1980. The number of international organizations working with UNDP on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip had also increased during 1989 and included UNCTAD, UNIDO and the International Trade Centre. The possibility of collaboration with the World Food Programme was also being explored.

68. The activities being carried out by UNDP in the area were increasingly directed towards industrial and agricultural projects with a view to increased productivity and income for the Palestinian people. A case in point was the Business Development Centre, which was providing advisory services and facilitating credit for Palestinian entrepreneurs. At the same time, the urgent basic humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people were not being overlooked by UNDP.

69. The needs of the Palestinian people and the difficulties created by occupation made the Programme especially important. There were a number of fully formulated projects which exceeded the availability of both SPRs and bilateral contributions. The Administrator therefore hoped that donors that had already contributed to the Programme would consider additional contributions and that those that had not yet done so would seriously consider the option.

70. Mr. ALAA (Observer for Palestine) said that the current session of the Council coincided with the tenth anniversary of the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people. He was grateful to all those who had helped the Palestinian people, either through UNDP or directly. He also thanked the Administrator for recommending the allocation of \$12 million to the Programme for the fifth programming cycle (1992-1996), a sum that was not, however, any higher than that allocated for the fourth cycle. He hoped that it could be increased.

71. The Administrator had indicated that UNDP assistance to occupied Palestine had focused on all the social and health services for which, under international law, the Israeli occupation authorities were responsible. Those authorities had always blocked productive projects which would make it possible to create an economic base for Palestine that was independent of the Israeli market. His delegation agreed with the Administrator that the emphasis should be rather on job-creation and self-sufficiency, particularly in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

72. General Assembly resolution 39/223 of 18 December 1984 called for the establishment of port facilities in the occupied Gaza Strip, a cement production facility on the occupied West bank and a citrus processing plant in the occupied Gaza Strip. His delegation would welcome details on these vital projects. It hoped that UNDP would continue its efforts to secure their realization. The Gaza Strip was the only outlet to the sea for the occupied Palestinian territories and a port was urgently required. The occupation authorities were opposed to it because they wished to maintain control of the trade of the occupied Palestinian territories. The project would also create jobs for Palestinians, which the occupation authorities also opposed. UNDP had obtained the sanction of the Israeli authorities for the construction of a citrus processing plant in the Gaza Strip. The Italian Government was involved in supervising and financing the plant and had made a \$5 million contribution. UNDP had not, however, taken the prompt action needed and his delegation could not understand its procrastination.

73. The International Trade Centre, in co-operation with UNDP and UNCTAD, had recently carried out a feasibility study for a trade and marketing promotion centre in the occupied territories. His delegation hoped that the obstacles to the implementation of that project would be overcome. It welcomed the opening of a UNDP Office at Jerusalem and hoped that it would soon be joined by a project assessment centre, as had been proposed.

74. For the 650,000 inhabitants of the Gaza Strip (360 km²), the scarcity of water supplies and the salinity of the water were a very serious problem, which had caught the attention of the international community. The occupation authorities had exacerbated it by sinking very deep wells to provide drinking water for the Israeli settlements. A real catastrophe was threatening the Gaza Strip in the medium and the long term with regard to both drinking water and water for irrigation. His delegation hoped that UNDP would be able to find a remedy.

75. Genuine economic development under the Israeli colonial occupation régime was hardly possible in view of the fact that the occupation authorities continually harrassed the Palestinians in the hope of inducing them to leave so that settlements could be built for new immigrants. His delegation hoped that, at very least, some modest aims would be attained, such as new jobs in the agricultural and industrial sectors, the development of international trade and the building of hospitals and education infrastructures. The Palestinian people would continue to affirm its aspirations for a just and lasting peace in the region together with national sovereignty and independence. It had reaffirmed its goodwill through the initiative of the Palestine National Council (November 1988) and Mr. Arafat's speech to the General Assembly at Geneva (December 1988). Peace was the only key to genuine economic and social development in Palestine and the Middle East. The intifada which had been going on for over two and a half years, would continue until such aspirations had been satisfied.

76. Mr. IMADI (Syrian Arab Republic) said he had some comments to make on the Administrator's report. The report noted the slow-down in the rate of programme delivery, the delays in securing the necessary clearances for new projects, serious programming and implementation problems and changes and fluctuations in programme implementation, but without giving any reason for all those difficulties. Moreover, it did not give the planned implementation rates or actual implementation rates, so it was impossible to find out exactly what UNDP had accomplished.

77. His delegation stressed the importance of assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly at a time when the oppression by the Israeli authorities was increasing. Those authorities were trying to clear the occupied Arab territories of their Palestinian inhabitants in order to establish settlements for new immigrants. The obstacles which they put in the way of any assistance to the Palestinian people gave evidence of a policy to prevent that people from living in dignity. They had thus prohibited UNDP projects designed to meet essential needs (water supplies, electricity and drainage) while, a few metres away from Arab villages, such services were being supplied to Israeli settlements. Impossible living conditions had forced the Palestinian people into the intifada, which was currently in its third year. UNDP assistance to the Palestinian people was therefore vital and his delegation agreed with the Administrator that it should be increasingly focused on industrial and agricultural projects to provide openings for Palestinian entrepreneurs and significantly increase job opportunities, the more so since, as things stood, Arab citizens often had had no alternative but to seek work from Israeli employers, who provided only low pay and poor working conditions. He therefore asked the international community to intensify its moral and financial support so that the Palestinians could continue to live in dignity on their lands and so that those who had left could return.

78. Mr. RIFAAH (Observer for Egypt) said that the international community had a political, legal and moral responsibility to protect the Palestinian people and to take urgent action to make Israel stop its oppressive practices, pending the liberation of the occupied territories and the creation of a free and independent Palestinian State. UNDP had an essential and specific role to play in such assistance since, unlike the case in other countries or regions, it was destined for a people whose territory was occupied and who had no authority over it. UNDP should bear that in mind when planning its projects and take steps to protect the independence of the Palestinian economy, so as to enable the Arab people of Palestine to put up a better resistance to the occupation and remain on their lands.

79. His delegation approved of the priority given in the Programme to agriculture, industry and water supplies. It also emphasized the importance of projects intended to free the foreign trade of the occupied territories from Israeli oversight, and particularly the project for the port of Gaza. It was essential that the identification and planning of projects should form the subject of thorough consultation and close co-operation with the Palestinian State and that bilateral contributions for some projects should be encouraged, since it was an effective means of increasing the resources available.

80. Mr. EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) said he welcomed the increase in the resources of the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people and the improved co-ordination between UNDP and the other organizations of the United Nations system, particularly UNRWA. His delegation recalled that UNDP was obliged regularly to consult the PLO on its activities in Palestine, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolution.

81. While his delegation quite understood that Israel's occupation of the territories placed UNDP in a difficult situation, it felt none the less that there was a certain lack of effectiveness in the implementation of the Programme. It had never been the subject of an evaluation, applications for clearances were presented late and the procrastination by the Israeli

authorities in granting clearances had not been properly reported to the Council. Indeed, project material, equipment and even project execution had been sabotaged by the military occupation authorities without the Council having been properly informed.

82. In view of the fact that the report was a very brief one and gave no details of the implementation of the Programme, his delegation would have liked the Director to inform the Council of the rate of implementation and on the measures required to enable the Programme to reach its goal. Lastly, he requested that the resources of the Programme should be increased for the fifth cycle by more than was recommended by the Administrator. His delegation considered that it was high time that an IPF was established for Palestine, since SPR funding of the Programme was no longer justified.

83. Mr. AZAIEZ (Observer for Tunisia) said that the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people, while modest in terms of the enormous needs of that people, victims of the last bastion of colonialism, was, as the Administrator had noted, one of the major sources of United Nations development aid to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. The furious attempts of the occupation forces to hold up by any means the implementation of the Programme proved its importance. His delegation was therefore pleased to note that the downturn in programme execution, which it had found deeply disquieting in 1987 and 1988, had been reversed in 1989. It hoped that funding during the fifth cycle would exceed the \$12 million fixed for the fourth cycle.

84. Believing as it did that UNDP had an irreplaceable role in the development of Palestine, his delegation wished to express its satisfaction at the Programme's efforts to implement under difficult circumstances its projects for the benefit of the Palestinian people. It also welcomed the co-operative links that UNDP had established with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. Lastly, it wished to stress that the Programme's contribution to the re-establishment of peace in Palestine through economic and social development deserved the support of all peace-loving nations.

85. Mr. MALMIERCA (Cuba) said he was pleased to note that the report showed that progress had been made in implementing the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people. It was important that UNDP should continue its activities in that regard, both in the field and at headquarters. His delegation supported the Administrator's recommendation that action on behalf of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories should continue and be funded from the SPR.

86. Mr. LIU Lianke (China) said that, in the 10 years since the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people had started, UNDP had made great efforts to ensure its implementation. He hoped that those efforts would continue. His delegation would like the resources allocated under the Programme to be increased during the fifth cycle.

87. Mr. EL-FERJANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said he recognized the importance of UNDP's assistance to the Palestinian people, however slow and still inadequate it might be. His delegation was aware that there were many obstacles to the normal implementation of the Programme. It was concerned to note the decrease in the funds allocated and hoped that additional resources would be released. It would have liked the Administrator to have given

the Council detailed information on the nature and origin of the problems hindering normal implementation of the Programme and on the channels through which development assistance passed before reaching the Palestinian people. His delegation supported what had been said by the representative of Palestine.

88. Mr. LY (Observer for Senegal) said that his delegation strongly supported UNDP's programmes and activities, particularly its financial and technical assistance to the people of Palestine. It especially welcomed the co-operation between UNDP and UNRWA and noted with interest the Administrator's emphasis on strict respect for the consultation process specified by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council. It agreed with the importance attached to the provision of water, health, agriculture, education, training and industrialization.

89. He noted with satisfaction the improvement in the implementation rate of the Programme in the occupied Palestinian territories, as compared with 1987 and 1988, but thought that an attempt should be made to go still further. In his opinion, an additional allocation of resources for the fifth cycle was needed. He shared the views expressed in the report's conclusions that UNDP could be in a position to make valuable contributions to the peace process as well as the development process over the next few years.

90. Mr. ABU-QSHBA (Observer for Saudi Arabia) said he endorsed what had been said by the representative of Syria. His delegation thanked the countries which had contributed to the Programme and asked those which had not yet honoured their pledges to do so as soon as possible, in order to relieve the sufferings of the Palestinian people and to promote the development of the occupied territories.

91. His delegation was concerned at the methods used by the Israelis to slow down the implementation of the Programme by refusing the necessary clearances. It also deplored and condemned the inhuman measures adopted every day by the occupation authorities against the Palestinian people.

92. His delegation hoped that the Programme would be extended to all the territory's economic sectors and that UNDP would develop its relations with the other international agencies and institutions in order to give the Palestinian people every possible assistance. It also approved the thrust of the Programme in giving priority to project diversification.

93. Mr. KITAGAWA (Japan), having paid tribute to all those who were participating under difficult circumstances in the implementation of the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people, said he hoped that UNDP would continue to play a guiding role in co-ordinating the activities of the other United Nations bodies on behalf of the Palestinian people.

94. As its contribution to actions to promote the development of the socio-economic sectors on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, his Government had donated \$1 million in 1988 and \$2 million in 1989. Having noted that the funds had been effectively used to improve the lot of the Palestinian people, the Japanese Parliament had recently approved a similar sum for 1990. Lastly, he wished to point out to the Secretariat that a minor error had been made in the annex to document DP/1990/84 concerning the amount of Japan's contribution.

95. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that the cause of the Palestinian people's problems was the continued occupation and the refusal to recognize its right to self-determination. The international community thus had the responsibility to help the Palestinians as long as they continued to be victims of brutal oppression by the Israeli forces. His delegation appreciated UNDP's efforts in that regard and wished to emphasize that the Programme needed to be fully implemented in order to be truly effective. The closest attention should be paid to the obstacles to its implementation.

96. Pakistan had always supported the Palestine people's cause and, in addition to very firm moral and political support, had provided economic and technical assistance as far as its limited means would allow, an assistance which would continue for as long as necessary.

97. Mr. MACARTHUR (United States of America) said his delegation supported the UNDP Programme as described in the report (DP/1990/84). He noted that the Administrator had mentioned the programme of United States bilateral assistance, to an amount of \$1 million, for the installation of gas and a sewage system through USAID. He recalled that his country was the main contributor to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and that President Bush had recently authorized an additional allocation of \$7 million to UNRWA for the benefit of the Palestinian people.

98. Mr. HOSSEINI (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the continued repression of the Palestinians by the military occupation forces had had negative effects on the operation of UNDP projects in the occupied territories. His delegation paid tribute to UNDP for its work in extremely difficult conditions.

99. On the question of project programming, his delegation took the view that the health sector was extremely important and that greater attention should be paid to infrastructure projects. Self-sufficiency, as a corner-stone of development should also receive special attention. According to various reports from the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the general living conditions of the Palestinians continued to deteriorate. It was thus incumbent upon the international community to find a remedy for their sufferings and, in that regard, his delegation supported the activities of the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people. The only lasting solution was the withdrawal of the occupation forces and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in the entire land of Palestine.

100. Mr. NAM (Observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said it was necessary to increase the assistance given to the Palestinian people and he supported the statement by the representative of Palestine.

101. Mr. ROTHERMEL (Director, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people) said that he had taken note of the remarks by several speakers on the Programme's orientation. Concerning the funding of the Programme, many speakers had mentioned the possibility of increasing during the fifth cycle the sum of \$12 million allocated for the fourth cycle. The question of the SPR was currently under examination, but the Administrator's proposal on the subject was clearly set forth in paragraph 9 of the report (DP/1990/84). One delegation had brought up the problem of the resources available. The reply to its question was to be found in paragraph 8 of the report:

the remaining balance of the funding provided for the fourth cycle stood at \$850,000 as of March 1990. A methodology for an evaluation of the Programme 10 years after its establishment was currently being explored. One delegation had also wanted to know how the available Programme resources were channelled to the beneficiaries. He could assure the members of the Council that the resources in question were transmitted directly by UNDP to the Palestinian people. More assistance would certainly be needed to help the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. That was why projects which were still awaiting funding were kept on the list.

102. Mr. IMADI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his question had not been answered.

103. Mr. ROTHERMEL (Director, Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian people) informed the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic that he would find the answer to his question in paragraph 2 of the report (DP/1990/84).

104. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to take note of document DP/1990/84.

105. It was so decided.

The summary record of the second part of the meeting
appears as document DP/1990/SR.36/Add.1.

