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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 26TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HARLAND (New Zealand)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 80: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (continued) (A/39/3 (Part II), A/39/56, 71, 88, 95, 110, 118, 126, 131 and Corr.1, 133, 187, 226, 236, 269, 302, 303, 304, 314, 323, 331, 448, 495, 536, 554, 560; A/C.2/39/3 and 4)

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- (p) DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/420).

1. Mr. FÖLDEÁK (Hungary) said that the current state of the world economy was not favourable for industrial development, particularly in the developing countries, whose 10 per cent share of world manufacturing output in 1975 had increased to only 11.9 per cent by 1983. Industrial development was of particular significance for those countries as a means of attaining economic independence. Their distorted economic structures inherited from the past must be transformed and sound national strategies based on the optimum use of national resources, both material and human, were a precondition for their industrialization. External assistance, particularly the transfer of new technology, had an important role to play in the implementation of those strategies.

2. The basic conditions for international co-operation in industry were the creation of an appropriate international political atmosphere for restoring confidence among States and normalizing international economic relations through the removal of artificial obstacles to economic co-operation, for which several of the resolutions adopted at the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO provided an appropriate basis.

3. UNIDO was about to become a specialized agency. In promoting industrial development the new organization should bear in mind the interests of all the

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(Mr. Földeák, Hungary)

countries that maintained relations with it. In addition to providing technical assistance, it should be more effective in formulating and implementing long-term industrial development strategies in the developing countries and in exploring modalities for their economic restructuring.

4. Hungary had launched several co-operative production projects to help meet the industrial development needs of developing countries. It had set up mutually beneficial joint ventures in keeping with the economic development strategies of the countries concerned. It had also endeavoured to contribute to the attainment of the industrial development goals of other countries through its relations with UNIDO.

5. Turning to the sub-item on food problems, he said that the 1974 goal of the World Food Conference had not been achieved. Agriculture and food production were being adversely affected by the crisis in the world economy. Food production had increased in certain countries, but not in the countries of high population growth. The global number of people suffering from hunger had therefore not decreased. Whereas in some continents millions of people were undernourished, countries with developed food production capacity had enormous surpluses and faced difficulties in exporting them. The World Food Council had correctly stated that the roots of food problems lay not in the technological limitations of production but in political and economic obstacles to a more effective distribution of available reserves. One key to finding a solution to the food problems of developing countries was the implementation of comprehensive national programmes, using international resources to the maximum and introducing the necessary socio-economic reforms, particularly agrarian reforms.

6. The improvement of food supplies for the Hungarian population was an economic as well as a political question. Results had been achieved by large agricultural enterprises implementing a long-term food production strategy, and using modern equipment and techniques. Socialist reforms in agriculture and the subsequent efforts of the State in that sector had contributed to Hungary's economic stability. Hungary's achievements could serve as an argument in favour of State involvement in the management of production; the private sector was not the only means of coping with food problems.

7. Hungary had demonstrated its awareness of the importance of international co-operation for improving the world food situation by its active participation in the work of FAO and the World Food Council. It was sharing its experience in practice by providing scientific and technical assistance for agriculture and food production to numerous developing countries. The grave food problems of those countries could be eased in the short term if restrictive food-trade measures were lifted and if some countries abandoned their policy of using food as a political weapon.

8. The environment could be successfully protected only through more international co-operation. The importance that UNEP attached to the relationship between population and environmental protection and to the environmental aspects of emerging agricultural technology was a major step in the right direction. Long-term approaches to environmental questions should be established without delay. An

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(Mr. Földeák, Hungary)

environmental strategy was needed that would reflect the interaction between the environment and socio-economic progress and recognize that the political will of Governments was essential for attaining environmental goals. Hungary would participate actively in that effort. The regional strategy being prepared by the ECE would be a useful contribution to the formulation of a global strategy within the framework of UNEP. The ECE Convention against acid rain was a significant result of international action.

9. UNEP's activities had encouraged all countries to consider the environmental impact of their development strategies. That was particularly important in developing countries where the problems of environmental protection had to be dealt with concurrently with those of economic and social development. His Government had assisted those countries within the framework of UNEP and hoped to increase its participation in UNEP's activities.

10. Mr. McBARNETTE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that, in spite of significant increases in food production in some areas, hundreds of millions were still chronically hungry. While some countries were grappling with the "problem" of limiting agricultural surpluses and production so as to maintain farm prices and incomes, others were weary from the ravages of drought, the ever-encroaching desert, pests and diseases. Hunger was however, a man-made problem brought on by decades of ignorance and neglect and perpetuated by political, economic and institutional barriers.

11. In Latin America and the Caribbean, national Governments had placed much emphasis on the formulation of food strategies coherent with their interrelated social and economic goals, particularly as they affected production, consumption and distribution. Trinidad and Tobago had thus viewed the problem of feeding its population within the context of a balanced approach to its rural and urban development. The problems of equal development and of a balanced approach to urban and rural areas, even in a small island developing country like Trinidad and Tobago, were formidable.

12. Faced with a food import bill of approximately \$US 375 million annually and a harsh international economic environment, Trinidad and Tobago had taken action to stimulate its food production. It had reviewed both the incentives programme and existing pricing policies, and had also examined land tenancy arrangements and infrastructural development. A reorganization and performance evaluation of the entire sector had also been undertaken with the assistance of FAO.

13. Success in agriculture in several developed countries had been largely a result of investments in research and development, in the application of appropriate technology and in improving the quality of human resources in the sector. Greater attention should be paid to those areas in the developing world.

14. Tropical agriculture had been seriously retarded because resources for research and development were insufficient. Research efforts had in the main centred on exports or cash crops, as opposed to food crops, whereas higher priority should be given to the latter both by the donor community and by the international institutions involved.

(Mr. McBarnette, Trinidad and Tobago)

15. Over the years, much work had been done, particularly by international institutions, to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to implement infrastructural projects in the agricultural sector. The international community should continue to support those efforts by making available both financial resources and critical types of manpower.
16. The theme "Women in agriculture", chosen for World Food Day on 19 October 1984, had been indeed apt in its recognition of the vital role of women in the provision of food in many developing countries. For centuries, women's contribution as providers of food had been largely unrewarded and unrecognized. Since they shared the drudgery of daily toil in the fields, women should also share in the benefits and advancements of agriculture.
17. Although 10 years had elapsed since the World Food Conference in Rome and the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, the spectre of chronic hunger still loomed large in the world. In particular, the world community should not only provide aid to sub-Saharan Africa but also assist it in putting food and agriculture on a stable and self-sufficient basis.
18. Mr. RESHETNYAK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the marked slowdown in the industrialization of new States in recent years was not only a result of the economic crisis that had gripped world capitalism, but also a consequence of the premeditated policy of developed capitalist countries seeking to shift the burden of the crisis onto the developing countries. The Western countries' artificial raising of interest rates; the lowering of prices on commodities from developing countries; increased protectionism; trade, credit and technological discrimination; the illegal practice of economic sanctions and embargoes; the outflow of developing countries' financial resources; and a huge foreign debt had brought many developing countries to the brink of financial and economic disaster and dealt a heavy blow to their industrial development.
19. The developed capitalist States were evidently unwilling to meet the needs of the liberated countries. Because of the Western countries' unconstructive position, the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO had not reached agreement on a number of important issues, in particular, abolishing protectionism and many limitations, lowering bank interest rates, indebtedness, and curbing the adverse effect of transnational corporations on the industrial and socio-economic development of the newly independent States.
20. In spite of that, the Conference had adopted a number of decisions with a positive bearing on UNIDO's future activities. In particular, it had been reaffirmed that peace, disarmament and development were inseparably linked. He welcomed the adoption by the Conference of important resolutions on technical assistance to the Palestinian people, immediate assistance to Lebanon for the reconstruction of its industrial sector, and technical assistance to the southern African national liberation movements.
21. UNIDO's efforts to render technical assistance to the developing countries and its various courses and seminars on the training of specialists for those countries were commendable. There had been a qualitative improvement in a number of

(Mr. Reshetnyak, Ukrainian SSR)

technical projects, and the work of the UNIDO secretariat in industrial planning had been stepped up. The Second Expert Group Meeting on Industrial Planning had been held in his country from 21 to 25 May 1984.

22. UNIDO should increase its activities concerned with promoting the economic self-sufficiency of developing countries and with assisting them in setting up basic branches of industry, accelerating their industrialization, and strengthening their national sovereignty over their natural resources and economies.

23. In the last few years, the scope of UNIDO had broadened. In particular, its increased co-operation with the World Bank had facilitated the channelling of foreign private capital into developing countries. UNIDO's activities should exclude the possibility that development programmes of new States would be used for neo-colonialist exploitation and the unilateral advantage of developed capitalist States and their transnational corporations.

24. There was a growing need for international co-operation in protecting the environment through the adoption of effective measures. There was also a close relationship between environmental protection and other issues especially peace, disarmament and development.

25. UNEP's activities should be conducted in the interests of all States. UNEP should maintain its co-ordinating role in environmental protection and its secretariat should follow strictly the decisions adopted, especially those relating to financial implications. UNEP's so-called "clearing-house mechanism" should be financed exclusively through voluntary contributions and without any financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations. It was possible that it went beyond the scope of UNEP's mandate. As for the preparation of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/161 should be complied with strictly.

26. With regard to sub-item (c) ("Immediate measures in favour of the developing countries"), he considered that implementation of immediate measures should not divert attention from the necessity of establishing a new international economic order and the democratization of international economic relations, including the early initiation of global negotiations.

27. He agreed with the conclusion of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy that the primary responsibility for promoting the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy rested with individual countries. The development of national energy resources in developing countries, was however, a difficult task given the general socio-economic backwardness inherited by those countries from the colonialist era, their still relatively unexplored sources of energy, their financial and technological difficulties and their acute lack of qualified specialists. The relevant United Nations activities should be directed towards promoting mutually advantageous and equitable international co-operation in the interest of all countries. The developing countries should exploit their new and renewable sources of energy in accordance with national plans and priorities for the development of energy as a whole. Effective implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action

(Mr. Roshetnyak, Ukrainian SSR)

would depend on the extent to which the activities of all the relevant United Nations organs and agencies were co-ordinated. The cost of the Programme should not exceed the allocation in the United Nations regular budget, and any necessary additional resources or activities should be paid for by voluntary contributions.

28. Consultative meetings were important as a complement to mobilizing additional resources for the development of new and renewable sources of energy, but they should not be used for channelling foreign private capital and involving transnational corporations in the economies of the developing countries. Participation in consultative meetings should not entail additional expenditure from the regular budget of the United Nations and the Secretary-General should submit a general appraisal of the performance and suitability of the consultative mechanism.

29. Mr. GBEHO (Ghana) said that the countries of Africa attached special importance to implementation of the Programme for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. International support had an important role to play in supplementing their efforts to build up the technical and managerial skills essential for the establishment of industries. He hoped that sufficient contributions to the Industrial Development Fund would be forthcoming to ensure successful implementation of the Programme.

30. Although the outcome of the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO had not been entirely positive, a useful exchange of views had taken place on the problems confronting developing countries in their industrial sector. A number of resolutions aimed at helping them had been adopted which ought to be implemented fully and as soon as possible.

31. His delegation hoped that the difficulties facing UNIDO in its conversion to a specialized agency would soon be solved so that it would have a sound basis for working successfully. Economic and technical co-operation among developing countries was of value in terms of sharing experiences and should be supported by the international community and the organizations of the United Nations system.

32. He thanked all donor countries and organizations which had helped to bring the food crisis in Africa to the world's attention and had played a key role in mobilizing emergency food assistance and delivery. The emergency phase of the food crisis was far from over; in many countries it had grown worse and it would take time for them to re-establish their agricultural programmes and ensure adequate supplies for their populations. The need for assistance to farming communities therefore continued to be acute.

33. The countries of Africa acknowledged their primary responsibility to tackle their own food and agricultural production problems, as also the fact that the resources they had so far committed to that sector had been inadequate, but, confronted by the current crisis, they were mobilizing their limited resources to meet the emergency, short-term and medium-term requirements. There was an unfortunate tendency to focus on the need for action at the national level without a corresponding emphasis on international action. Policies pursued in the recent past had been prescribed by those who were being most vocal in criticizing Africa's

(Mr. Ghebo, Ghana)

so-called policy failure: for years African countries had been advised to boost export crops so as to earn the hard currency needed to support import-substitution industries, but people were starving and there was no point in assigning blame. What was needed was concerted action to end the emergency and attack the underlying structural causes. African countries were increasingly adopting national food strategies and their efforts must be supported by the international community.

34. At the regional, ministerial level, the collective determination of the African countries to take action and to introduce or strengthen food and agricultural policy objectives had been reaffirmed. The African Ministers, in the Harare Declaration on the Food Crisis in Africa, adopted at the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference in July 1984, had recognized their responsibility for ensuring the adequate production and supply of food and raising nutritional standards.

35. At the national level Ghana was taking steps to improve the farmers' situation and to involve them in the decision-making process with regard to food production. The essential role of women in the agricultural sector was being recognized and more effective use was being made of co-operatives.

36. There was an unfortunate tendency to imply that African countries were unable to deal with their crisis. A large number of them had taken action in the food and agricultural sectors, but political, economic, social, administrative and technical difficulties were making rapid progress difficult. When those difficulties were compounded by the adverse international economic situation, they were faced with almost insurmountable odds. It was unfair to expect drastic national measures without a commensurate and adequate response from the international community. He was therefore pleased to note the initiative of the Belgian Government to increase resources specifically destined for the agricultural sector in some African countries and hoped that other developed countries would follow suit.

37. Food and agriculture problems in Africa were linked to other problems such as underdevelopment, deterioration in the terms of trade and the erosion of agricultural commodity export earnings. With a significant improvement in those earnings and relief from the debt-service burden, African countries would have more resources with which to rehabilitate food production.

38. He drew attention to the need for international assistance in eradicating plant and animal diseases and in other areas such as the development of low-cost irrigation systems and research on improving the yields of staple food crops. Post-harvest losses had been a major cause of diminishing African self-sufficiency in food; international assistance in reducing them would increase food supply.

39. He welcomed the decision of the Governing Council of UNEP to include Ghana in the mandate of the Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO). Ghana intended to avert environmental degradation, in co-operation with UNEP, and therefore welcomed the efforts of UNSO and UNEP to improve the capacity of developing countries to preserve their natural resources while achieving rapid economic growth. Efforts were being made to promote reforestation in Ghana and to make the Ghana Environmental Protection Council more effective.

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(Mr. Ghebo, Ghana)

40. Within two years Ghana hoped to make significant progress towards meeting domestic requirements for crude oil and in that connection it was eager to make use of United Nations facilities and resources. Ghana was also interested in exploring possibilities for developing new and renewable sources of energy and reaffirmed its commitment to the Nairobi Programme of Action. He hoped that mobilization of resources for that purpose would lead to rapid progress towards increased energy self-sufficiency for developing countries. Ghana had already availed itself of the services of the Energy Resources Branch of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and looked forward to further co-operation with it.

41. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia) said that the imperialist States bore the principal responsibility for the economic difficulties of the developing countries. The acute socio-economic problems which the liberated States had inherited from the colonial era were worsening as a result of the neo-colonialist policies of the capitalist States which included protectionism and other restrictions, high exchange rates and illegal embargoes and sanctions.

42. It was obvious that without effective industrialization the developing countries could not attain economic independence nor solve their socio-economic problems. The liberated States should exercise more sovereignty over their own natural resources, introduce national planning and develop the State and co-operative sectors of their economies.

43. Because of the obstructionist position of some Western Powers, the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO had not reached a consensus on a number of important issues whose solution would have helped to accelerate the economic development of the liberated States. Mongolia disagreed with the Conference's decision on investment promotion, and was against any action that could make UNIDO an instrument for channelling the private capital of transnational corporations into the economies of developing countries.

44. Mongolia supported the efforts of UNIDO to implement major projects in developing countries. In Mongolia, UNIDO was carrying out a number of projects conducive to the solution of certain problems associated with accelerating the country's development.

45. Priority should be given to the speedy solution of the serious food problems of the African countries. Food problems could be solved, given favourable international conditions. The militaristic course of imperialism and the arms race which it imposed, as well as the Western countries' illegal use of sanctions, their blackmail and diktats, and their introduction of high interest rates and other measures against other States, had undoubtedly aggravated the food problems of developing countries which could be solved most effectively if they were to carry out profound socio-economic changes in agriculture, especially by developing and broadening their co-operative sectors and creating large-scale agro-industrial complexes.

46. Mr. TEP (Democratic Kampuchea) expressed concern that millions of people, particularly in Africa, continued to suffer from hunger and malnutrition even though world-wide food production had been ample. Hunger and malnutrition could

(Mr. Tep, Democratic Kampuchea)

nevertheless be eradicated in the near future and he concurred with the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the World Food Council at its tenth session. The widening gap between the developed and the developing countries must be narrowed and international economic relations must be restructured more equitably if food problems were to be solved. To that end, a rational system of international food trade should be established and food-exporting countries should curtail protectionism. Moreover, peace and stability would have to be maintained if the food situation of the developing countries was to be improved.

47. Democratic Kampuchea had experienced hunger and malnutrition as a result of Viet Nam's 1978 invasion and continuing occupation. The invaders had deliberately created conditions of famine as a means of mass extermination. Foodstuffs, including food-aid supplies intended for the Kampuchean people, had been diverted or looted for use by the Vietnamese. In areas still under occupation, the local population was frequently prevented from farming; any food produced in secret was destroyed; Kampuchean men had been impressed into the Vietnamese army creating a severe shortage of labour in rural areas and thus lowering agricultural output. In areas where Vietnamese control was waning, each Kampuchean family had recently been required to provide the occupiers with 10 kilograms of rice. The occupiers had also sought to mislead world public opinion by claiming that the food situation in Democratic Kampuchea was the result of natural disasters. In fact, starving refugees were fleeing the western part of the country, where the land was rich and natural disasters had never occurred. To date, the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea had done everything within its modest means to solve the food problems. Most of the rural areas, which had been liberated from occupation, were growing increasingly secure, thereby enabling the Kampuchean people to begin farming again in accordance with the food self-sufficiency policy set out by the Government.

48. The work of UNEP was important because of the interdependence between environmental and social and economic problems. He noted with satisfaction the decision taken by the UNEP Governing Council at its twelfth session to establish an open-ended Inter-Governmental Inter-sessional Preparatory Committee to assist the Council in carrying out its mandate in regard to the environmental perspective to the year 2000 and beyond. He also endorsed the report of the Executive Director on the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. As the representative of a country which was itself the victim of war of aggression and extermination, he fully shared the grave concern expressed by the international community at the damage inflicted on the environment in South Africa by apartheid, and consequently supported Governing Council decision 12/6. His delegation also agreed with the Governing Council that the increasing manufacture of weapons of mass destruction and the risk of their use posed a major threat to the environment and all life on earth.

49. While the international community had been focusing its efforts on environmental protection and on promoting public awareness of environmental issues, the Kampuchean people had been denied even the most basic needs, including shelter, land and water. The environment in Democratic Kampuchea continued to deteriorate as the result of the Vietnamese war of aggression. As the invaders encountered increasing difficulties, they stepped up their destruction of Kampuchean homes and

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(Mr. Tep, Democratic Kampuchea)

land, and they had used chemical and biological weapons to massacre Kampuchean in remote areas. He cited evidence gathered by a Belgian toxicologist of the use of mycotoxins, noting that the massive use of those products had had adverse effects on the country's agriculture, ecosystems and animal life.

50. The Vietnamese had also pursued a policy of "Vietnamization" since 1980 aimed at changing the demographic composition of the population, particularly in the most fertile areas and along watercourses. In some villages and towns the majority of the population was already Vietnamese. Moreover, the Vietnamese settlers had been trained prior to their arrival to assist Vietnamese troops and participate in Viet Nam's absorption of Democratic Kampuchea. The Chairman of the International Conference on Kampuchea had recently been quoted in The New York Times on the subject and had stated that the resettlement of Vietnamese in Kampuchea must be a matter of concern to all who sought to re-establish the independence of that country.

51. Mr. ABU-KOASH (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories (A/39/233), which had been well researched, even though the Israeli authorities had prevented the authors from visiting the occupied territories. The report showed the severe impact of Israeli's colonial settlements on the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by depicting the wide gap between the living conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation and those of the Israeli settlers. In that connection, he recalled that that occupation violated article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which stated that "the Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies".

52. Israel had occupied Palestinian territory illegally for expansionist purposes. In Jerusalem and in the Gaza Strip, several Palestinian residential quarters had been destroyed by the occupation authorities to make way for colonial settlements. In the West Bank, Palestinian farmers had been forced to give up their land for "security" purposes so that settlements could be built. Such actions were part of Israel's 30-year plan to reach parity between the number of settlers and Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. That plan called for housing construction on a large scale whereas, at the same time building permits for Palestinian housing units were restricted, even though Palestinian housing needs were great.

53. The new settlements were being established to facilitate the annexation of the territories in question, isolate them from other Arab countries, destroy the Palestinian identity and prevent the achievement of a just peace in the region. They threatened the future of the Palestinian people by creating a feeling of insecurity which was not unjustified, given the killing of Palestinians by Israeli settlers. Such killing was just one of many forms of intimidation. In some cases, Palestinian farmers had been forced to abandon their lands following attacks by Israeli settlers. Such action had a direct economic effect on the Palestinians, since it decreased the amount of resources available to them.

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(Mr. Abu-Koash, Observer, PLO)

54. He asked whether it was moral that Kahane should have left the United States of America to live in Israel, where he had been elected to Parliament on a platform that had as its objective the eviction of Palestinians from their homeland. The notoriety of Kahane and his followers, most of whom were settlers, was not a unique phenomenon, but rather a true reflection of the Zionist identity upon which Israel was based. At the same time, Kahane's crimes appeared less evil when compared with the crimes of Sharon at Sabra and Shatila, or with the crimes perpetrated by the Israeli authorities every day against the Palestinian and Arab peoples in Lebanon and Syria.

55. Israel's current economic difficulties were also detrimental to the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, since those territories had been made economically dependent upon the Israeli economy. Consequently, the living conditions of the Palestinian people could be improved only when Israeli occupation had ceased and when the Palestinian people was able to return to its homeland and exercise its rights of self-determination and independence.

56. Mr. BATTI (Observer, Commission of the European Communities), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community (EEC), said that long-term measures to accelerate food production were required in order to ensure food security in the developing countries. Farmers would have to be offered incentives to increase their production, specifically by means of remunerative pricing policies; international measures could only be supplementary.

57. A number of the avenues explored by developing countries in recent years seemed promising, particularly the implementation of food strategies and efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in food. The formulation of national food strategies enabled an integrated approach to be taken to the problems involved.

58. Rural development and self-sufficiency in food were among the main guidelines proposed by EEC to its partners in the current negotiations for a new convention on co-operation between the Community and the ACP States.

59. In the action plan of its anti-hunger campaign EEC had included a provision in support of the implementation of food strategies: it allowed its partners to assume mutual obligations in implementing their rural development and food security policies. Food strategies must also take into account the important role played by women in food production.

60. Food aid was a major complement to local production and should be integrated into the food strategies of recipient countries; at the same time, food aid was an emergency measure for combating hunger and malnutrition, and should not be viewed as an end in itself. EEC was pleased to contribute actively to the World Food Programme; its pledge for the period 1985-1986 would be at least equal to what it had provided in the past.

61. EEC's food aid programme for 1983 had consisted of approximately 1 million tons of grain, supplemented by purchases of foodstuffs in the amount of ECU 23 million. In that connection, he pointed out that the Community's relevant triangular arrangements had developed significantly since 1982.

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(Mr. Batti)

62. One of Africa's major problems was how to satisfy the region's food needs and increase food production which had fallen by nearly 10 per cent per capita in one decade. The reasons for the drop were numerous and included runaway demographic growth, accelerated urbanization, persistent drought, increasing desertification, a change in consumption patterns and, occasionally, the unsuitability of agricultural policies.

63. EEC had responded to the appeals of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO by expediting existing programmes and providing additional assistance. In 1984, the sub-Saharan countries most severely affected by drought had been allocated ECU 102 million, or roughly 40.6 per cent of all direct food aid, an increase over the 37.5 per cent provided in 1983. Roughly 448,000 tons of grain (an increase of 11 per cent over 1983) would be allocated in 1984; food aid in the amount of approximately ECU 60 million would also be provided to sub-Saharan Africa through international and non-governmental organizations.

64. EEC was following the situation in Africa closely and was prepared to consider additional assistance to the most seriously stricken countries. It had allocated ECU 29 million for those countries, among which Mozambique and Ethiopia - the most severely affected - had received ECU 4.6 million and ECU 3 million, respectively, for the internal transport of food aid, seed supply, the purchase of local food and the assignment of doctors and medical teams. Under its anti-hunger campaign, the Community was allocating ECU 33 million, or 57 per cent of total commitments for 1984, for African countries.

65. EEC realized that some developing countries could maintain an adequate food supply only through imports, which meant that their food security depended on their export earnings. Consequently, it had made a number of arrangements to grant preferential treatment to imports from developing countries. Under those arrangements, particularly the Lomé Convention, most imports from those countries enjoyed free entry into EEC countries, and the Community planned to liberalize those terms even further. The international community should promote food security in the developing countries by stabilizing international trade flows and world market prices for certain products on which the developing countries' export earnings depended.

The meeting rose at 12.55 a.m.