



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BIRIDO (Sudan)
later: Mr. BROTDININGKAT (Indonesia)
later: Ms. ERIKSSON (Sweden)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO

1. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of members of the Committee and on his own behalf, expressed his condolences to the Venezuelan delegation, to the Venezuelan Government and people and to the family of the deceased. Mr. Pérez Guerrero had been associated with the work of the United Nations since its inception and, before that, with the League of Nations. Above all, he had been associated with economic and social matters both as a member of the Secretariat and as a diplomat in the service of his country. He had served with distinction as the Permanent Representative of Venezuela in New York, President of the Economic and Social Council, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Minister of State for International Economic Affairs, Co-President of the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation, Special Ambassador on Economic Affairs and Chairman of the Group of 77. His death was a serious blow to the international community.

2. On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Manuel Pérez Guerrero.

3. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation), Mr. LAZAREVIC (Yugoslavia), on behalf of the Group of 77, Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. SCHULLER (Luxembourg), on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, paid a tribute to the memory of Mr. Pérez Guerrero, emphasizing the eminent role he had played both as a spokesman for the third world and as an architect of international co-operation for development.

4. Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden), on behalf of the Nordic countries, Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia), Mr. JACOB (India), Mr. FLEMING (United States of America), Mr. KUMARAN (Malaysia), Mr. YEUGOROV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Mrs. de DEL CUETO (Mexico), Mr. NKOBEA (Cameroon), Mr. MUKADDEM (Tunisia), Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria), Mr. MADRIZ Fornos (Nicaragua), Mrs. GLYNN (Honduras), Mr. LOPEZ (Ecuador), Mr. LEE (Canada), Mr. DIOF (Senegal), Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) and Mr. ABU-KOASH (Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization) expressed their condolences to the Government and people of Venezuela and to the family of Mr. Pérez Guerrero.

5. Mr. SUCRE-FIGARELLA (Venezuela) thanked the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ripert and the delegations for the expressions of sympathy and the tribute paid to the memory of the deceased. Mr. Pérez Guerrero had been the advocate of dialogue between peoples in a global and noble conception of international solidarity. Throughout his career, he had been faithful to the cause which he had defended when representing his country or when exercising his multiple responsibilities within the United Nations system. His death, on the day of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, was certainly symbolic.

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AGENDA ITEM 84: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (A/40/3, 109, 173, 184, 185, 202, 203, 220, 235, 276, 303, 305, 321, 327, 330, 340, 342, 347, 366, 374, 384, 401, 407, 458, 459, 476, 477, 489, 495, 525, 534, 544, 545, 582, 640, 672, 708 and 762; A/C.2/40/2 and 5; A/C.2/40/L.7)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (A/40/48)
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- (d) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (A/40/37; A/C.2/40/4)
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- (k) NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMAN ORDER: MORAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT (A/40/591)
- (l) LONG-TERM TRENDS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/40/519; A/C.2/L.10)

6. Mr. KUMLIN (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that their Governments were very pleased that the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the International Development Strategy had been able to adopt its conclusions by consensus. The final result had not perhaps met all expectations, but it had slowed the drift away from multilateralism and had reaffirmed the validity of the objectives of the Strategy. The important role played by the Chairman of the Committee deserved to be underscored; his statement, reproduced in the report of the Committee (A/40/48), was a careful and accurate analysis. However, the consensus must not remain purely theoretical. Governments must take concrete measures to implement the Strategy on the basis of the agreed conclusions.

7. At the current stage, the evolution of the dialogue on economic questions might be viewed with some optimism. A more realistic assessment of common interests and the consequences of international interdependence seemed to be under way as had been demonstrated in the Annual Meeting of IBRD and IMF, the deliberations on global trade negotiations and the mid-term review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries.

8. In many respects, and in particular with respect to the debt problem, the agreed conclusions perhaps set the limits of agreement that could be reached at present. However, from another point of view, they represented only a beginning, the beginning of a process that it was important to continue.

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(Mr. Kumlin, Sweden)

9. With respect to trade, the Nordic countries regretted that the agreed conclusions did not mention the launching of a new round of trade negotiations, under the auspices of GATT, because those negotiations were essential for maintaining and improving the trading system. The trend towards protectionism and bilateralism must be reversed in the general interest. The negotiating process must also be started as soon as possible because, on the one hand, the picture in the major industrialized countries was relatively favourable and, on the other, because negotiations must be carefully prepared and take into account the interests of all. A special effort must be made to improve market access, with emphasis on the needs of the least developed countries.

10. With regard to commodities, efforts must be intensified to conclude commodity agreements, renegotiate existing agreements, stabilize export earnings and rationalize the processing, marketing and distribution of commodities in order to increase export earnings and promote structural improvements in developing countries. In addition, countries which had not yet done so should ratify as soon as possible the Agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, in particular those countries which had a crucial role to play in financing the Fund.

11. The position of the Nordic countries with respect to external development assistance flows was well known. They were especially concerned about their financing through multilateral channels. All countries must assume their responsibilities so as to ensure the viability of the international specialized agencies (the Bretton Woods institutions, IFAD, UNDP and the regional development banks). In that connection, it was worth noting that the World Bank/IMF Development Committee had recently concluded that aid did work in most cases and that there was justification for increasing contributions through multilateral aid agencies. The activities of those institutions were a cornerstone of global economic co-operation; that applied to technical assistance, sectoral adaptation, structural adjustment, infrastructure projects and overall external balance.

12. The Nordic countries welcomed the fact that the international community had renewed its commitment to basic social objectives. Generally speaking, they wished to draw attention to the prospects offered by a process of ongoing consultations, negotiations and decisions.

13. They were especially pleased with the resolution on information systems for science and technology for development [resolution 1 (VII) of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development] and welcomed the step-by-step approach adopted in that regard. Action must be taken at the national level in developing countries to ensure effective use of international information systems. Information and documentation activities should be promoted simultaneously in order to establish a real research capacity.

14. The Nordic countries welcomed the rationalization measures adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee (biennial meeting cycle, thematic approaches). However, the low number of representatives of States at the seventh session was a cause of concern because the work of the Intergovernmental Committee deserved more attention. The documentation, which was of high quality, should also be presented earlier to delegations.

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(Mr. Kumlin, Sweden)

15. The Nordic countries had consistently worked for the establishment of the long-term Financing System for Science and Technology for Development as a decisive element for implementing the Vienna Programme of Action. The System should make possible a level of activity more commensurate with needs, and it should be a joint undertaking of both developing and developed countries with the burden being shared among current and potential donors. The Nordic countries appreciated the efforts made to preserve the idea of a viable financing system and were studying the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the subject. In view of the importance of the financial aspect, informal consultations should be held in order to enable a final decision to be taken during the current session.

16. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that the democratic restructuring of international economic relations was one of the great challenges facing the international community. That task had been stressed at the recent meeting, held at Sofia, of the Political Consultative Committee of the States members of the Warsaw Pact in a declaration containing comprehensive proposals on the subject. The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the decisions adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly on the establishment of a new international economic order and the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade constituted an inseparable whole which was indispensable for that restructuring. The attitude of the representatives of most Western States which had not participated in the session of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, raised doubts as to the seriousness and credibility of statements made by them at other forums.

17. The German Democratic Republic was guided by and would continue to be guided by the principles and provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. It had sought to make a constructive contribution to the session of the Ad Hoc Committee. Building on the results already achieved, the General Assembly, at its fortieth session, should adopt a resolution reaffirming the validity of that Charter and emphasizing the need for its consistent implementation by all States. From the attitude of States towards such a decision it would be possible to gauge to what extent opinions recently heard on several occasions concerning a change in mood and perceptions or a new momentum in the process of convergence of views on the major issues of development and international co-operation, were consistent with actual conditions.

18. The German Democratic Republic had actively participated in the sessions of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. It had already explained its position on the overall positive results of the work of the Committee, as well as its shortcomings for which certain Western States were to blame. It attached great importance to the agreed conclusions of the Committee (A/40/48) which referred to the link between the implementation of the Strategy and the establishment of a new international economic order, emphasized the need for peace, security, disarmament, confidence-building and equitable and non-discriminatory international economic co-operation, and gave

(Mr. Schumann, German
Democratic Republic)

guidance on the creation of favourable external conditions for the socio-economic development of all States. It was, to a great extent, in the light of those circumstances that the German Democratic Republic had joined the consensus on the agreed conclusions.

19. The fact should not be concealed, however, that a number of crucial questions had not been considered, such as preventing the misuse of international economic relations for purposes of exercising political and economic pressure, the democratization of international monetary and financial organizations and full implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. His delegation again endorsed the position, expressed by the socialist States and the Group of 77, that the agreed fundamental principles governing the establishment of a new international economic order on a just and democratic basis were, in fact, indispensable guidelines for further implementation of the Strategy. As the Group of 77 had pointed out, the agreed conclusions should be seen as a first step in the endeavour to negotiate on pressing international economic problems with a view to arriving at substantial accords.

20. The decisions taken at the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee (establishment of a two-year cycle for the work of the Committee, establishment of a global information system for science and technology by strengthening national information systems and by utilizing and co-ordinating existing United Nations information systems) were further steps to make the work of the Committee more effective and to co-ordinate scientific and technological activities within the United Nations system. His delegation wished to express its appreciation to the Intergovernmental Committee and to the Centre for Science and Technology for Development for what they had done to establish an advance technology alert system and for publishing a bulletin concerning the system. His delegation reaffirmed its readiness to continue to co-operate in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

21. The German Democratic Republic was satisfied with the most recent reports of the Governing Council of UNEP and the Commission on Human Settlements. It approved, in particular, of the activities of those two bodies which related to the indispensable interrelationship between specific technical matters and fundamental issues bearing on the continued existence of mankind. It unreservedly supported the decisions of the Governing Council and the Commission on Human Settlements concerning the investigation into the implications for the environment of the criminal policy of apartheid and concerning United Nations assistance to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories.

22. As part of its collaboration with the Commission on Human Settlements, his country was prepared to offer its experience in solving housing problems to developing countries, to provide field experts or to participate in UNDP-financed projects.

(Mr. Schumann, German
Democratic Republic)

23. The prevention of a nuclear catastrophe was a fundamental requirement for preserving and protecting human life and the human environment. His delegation hoped that the decisions adopted by the Governing Council on such fundamental issues would be implemented. In that regard, it recalled that, together with the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, it was re... to conclude with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany an agreement on the establishment of a chemical-weapons-free zone in the territories of the three States. Other States could also become parties to that agreement. Such a measure would have favourable consequences for the environment and would significantly reduce the risk of a catastrophe such as the one that had occurred in Bhopal. Moreover, it should be noted that his country, in direct co-operation with UNEP and UNESCO, continued to organize training courses on matters relating to the management of ecosystems.

24. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000 (A/40/519). Despite certain shortcomings resulting mainly from the use of statistical sources that were sometimes rather doubtful, the report was a useful point of departure for the future work of the United Nations Secretariat on long-term economic development trends. His country supported the continuation of that work and, accordingly, supported the adoption of the draft resolution submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its summer session and referred to the General Assembly.

25. In conclusion, his delegation welcomed the world survey on the role of women in development (A/40/703). Like many other delegations, it considered that the Survey and the recommendations therein would have important implications for the implementation of the decisions taken by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, held at Nairobi in July 1985, and would help to fulfil the three objectives of the Decade: equality, development and peace.

26. Ms. GOETSCH (Austria) said that of all the problems on the Second Committee's agenda the preservation of a livable environment was of most direct concern to the individual, in industrialized and developing countries alike. Except perhaps for disarmament, it was the most urgent problem the international community faced. No Government alone could solve it; all countries must harmonize their measures and integrate action on the environment into the overall development process, as implied by the Executive Director of UNEP.

27. Austria participated regularly in UNEP activities at world level; in 1985 it had hosted a conference on protection of the ozone layer, which had adopted a convention to which many States had already acceded.

28. As a first step, however, it was up to each State to elaborate and implement its laws to protect its own environment and that of its neighbours. For example, in 1985 the Austrian Government had decided to introduce new regulations governing vehicle exhaust gases, corresponding to those in force in the United States. Austria was the first European country to have introduced such stringent

(Ms. Goetsch, Austria)

regulations, and hoped that others would swiftly follow suit. During the previous five years Austria had also reduced sulphur emissions by 40 per cent. But such national measures would not be enough without complementary action at the international level. Her delegation therefore attached the greatest importance to the work carried out pursuant to the ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and was ready to co-operate actively in implementing it not only in regard to sulphur emissions but to other air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides.

29. Austria had also considerably reduced the pollution of its lakes during the past few years; it had recently launched a 10-year programme for cleaning its rivers, and in 1984 had established an environment fund. But it still faced severe problems in ground water protection.

30. The question of women's participation in development likewise deserved close attention. At the Nairobi World Conference in July 1985 the Austrian delegation had introduced a draft resolution calling for measures to overcome wage disparities between women and men, and a draft resolution on improving career opportunities for women through continued professional training. The full integration of women into the development process called for considerable changes in societies. The most important would have to come in basic attitudes of Governments, educational authorities, employers and women themselves. Women must view themselves, and be viewed, as participants in society on an equal footing with men, entitled to the same respect, rewards and responsibilities. The United Nations system could set an example by employing more women with qualifications and so designing its projects as to provide equal benefits and equal participation for men and women.

31. The systematic encouragement of science and technology could contribute decisively to the development process. Discussions in the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development had shown that much remained to be done in implementing the Vienna Programme of Action. It had become clear that the emergent science and technology sectors of developing countries required greatly increased support.

32. Her delegation had noted with interest the Secretary-General's recommendation concerning the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development. The System's effectiveness could probably be strengthened by closer collaboration with the relevant UNDP services. Her country was not convinced, however, that the possibility for donors to assign a portion of their UNDP contributions to that system would mobilize new financial resources.

33. Mr. SI (HAB) (Saudi Arabia), speaking on human settlements, drew attention to the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. The situation was realistically portrayed in the Secretary-General's report (A/40/373-E/1985/99), which testified to the numerous crimes daily committed by the Israeli occupation authorities against the basic human values of a people living in its own homeland, on its own soil. No one having read the report could avoid a sense of heavy responsibility while the perpetrators of those crimes were defying the Organization under its own roof.

(Mr. Shihabi, Saudi Arabia)

34. Zionism was a widespread conspiracy which aimed to take possession of a country and drive out its people or destroy it by denying it the means to survive. The Zionist leaders, without the least shame, had never made any secret of their objectives. For example, Moshe Dayan had said in 1974 that Israel would remain forever in the West Bank and Gaza because Judea and Samaria were part of its territory.
35. The report clearly showed how the Palestinians' living conditions had deteriorated in all spheres. In January 1984 the occupation authorities had seized 47.5 per cent of the total area of the West Bank and, according to some sources, controlled 50 to 60 per cent of the area of the occupied Palestinian territories. Twenty-six per cent of the expropriated land had been allocated to Israeli settlements, whose number had risen to 165 by the end of July 1983. The area under major crop cultivation had fallen by varying extents according to the crop, and the numbers of cattle belonging to Arab farmers had diminished by 57 per cent since the Zionist occupation. Arabs had lost control of their water resources and were the victims of serious restrictions, affecting irrigation also. Only 5 per cent of cultivated land was irrigated - much less than in other countries of the Middle East. Only 90 million cubic metres of water were being used for agriculture in the West Bank, compared to 1,280 million cubic metres going to Israel. Industrial enterprises suffered from lack of capital, from restrictions imposed on product marketing and machinery and raw material purchases, and from illegal competition by Israeli producers; they were often operating at only 50 per cent capacity at best.
36. The lack of an adequate banking system under the régime of terror imposed by the occupation authorities hindered development. Taxation and tax collection changes had adversely affected the Palestinians' living conditions.
37. The housing situation too had deteriorated due to overcrowding and lack of domestic services, while Israel continued to build settlements in the heart of the Palestinian nation to the detriment of Palestinians and their land, means of existence, security and independence.
38. With regard to health, the Gaza Strip was beset by many endemic diseases; the shortage of sanitary facilities was one of the most important and dangerous causes of the spread of disease.
39. Educational establishments and universities suffered from restrictions and collective punishment; Arab students and teachers were living in a climate of intellectual, political, police and military terror unknown even in the darkest days of the Middle Ages.
40. Such was the picture presented by the report. The troops of a State Member of the United Nations occupied the soil of the Palestinian Arab nation. The Palestinian people were living in unjust subhuman conditions, subjected to all forms of crimes punishable under international and domestic law. The question was whether to seek a piecemeal solution to the problems of living conditions or to tackle the root problems of invasion and occupation.

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(Mr. Shihabi, Saudi Arabia)

41. To deal with the many problems of living conditions, the United Nations and the Secretary-General should take all possible measures, implement the solutions proposed in the report and widely disseminate periodic reports on the efforts made for that purpose.

42. As for the basic problems, the international community could not remain silent and ignore the injustice being committed against the Palestinian people; if it did, it would be faced with a situation impossible to handle, no matter how strong its fleets or how long-range its aircraft were. Recent history was full of such lessons.

43. Mr. SYTCHEV (Secretary of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) said that the member States of CMEA had always supported the noble aims of the United Nations and that CMEA activities over more than 35 years had demonstrated the possibility of establishing international relations based on just and democratic principles. The Council had set out its position clearly on a whole range of problems related to United Nations economic activity in the Programme of Action on the improvement of international economic relations adopted at its economic summit conference. Unfortunately, the serious problems of the world capitalist economy were exerting a negative influence on international economic co-operation. Rising tensions, the disruption of trade, the aggravation of the monetary and financial crisis, the widening of trade conflicts among the capitalist countries, the intensification of the exploitation of the developing countries by developed capitalist countries, the shifting of the burden of the economic crisis on to the developing countries, resulting in their increasing indebtedness were some of the problems which had to be faced. In that context, CMEA member countries were supporting the just demands of the developing countries with regard to their foreign debts and were emphasizing the necessity of regulating international monetary and financial relations.

44. The international conference planned for 1986 on the interrelationship between disarmament and development would provide the international community with an opportunity to identify real ways of resolving urgent tasks. However, the prerequisites for success in that respect remained the prevention of nuclear war, the adoption of measures aimed at reducing armaments and promoting disarmament, and the prevention of the arms race spreading to outer space.

45. With regard to the documents before the Committee, which had been prepared through the collective efforts of various States, in particular CMEA member countries, he said that no progress had been made in implementing the aims of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, in launching global negotiations, in reforming the international monetary and financial system or in elaborating a code of conduct for transnational corporations.

46. On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, it should also be mentioned that the elimination of colonialism continued to be one of the major tasks facing the international community. The countries of the socialist

(Mr. Sytchev)

community were aware of the importance of the non-aligned countries' struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and expressed solidarity with their efforts.

47. The steady growth of the economic potential of CMEA member countries, based on multilateral co-operation, enabled them to make a tangible contribution to improving and restructuring international economic relations. Thus, in 1984, they had succeeded in further strengthening their mutual ties, increasing their economic growth rates and improving their peoples' standard of living. The co-ordination of economic development plans played a major role in the implementation of the long-term economic development strategy drawn up by the CMEA economic summit conference. The scope of economic relations among member countries had already broadened significantly. Between 1986 and 1990, measures were envisaged to accelerate the process of levelling up the economic development of the Council's member countries, especially that of Viet Nam, Cuba and Mongolia.

48. The countries of the socialist community were currently developing a joint Comprehensive Programme of Scientific and Technological Progress for the period up to the year 2000 based on a co-ordinated strategy. Finally, in June 1985, CMEA had adopted a Programme of Co-operation on the Economical and Rational Use of Material Resources up to the year 2000.

49. At the European level, an effort should be made to revive the Helsinki spirit and the climate of détente created by the signature of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Unfortunately, certain Western States were continuing to resort to all sorts of sanctions in their trade and economic relations with CMEA member States, thus preventing the creation of favourable conditions for trade exchanges between countries with different social and economic systems.

50. Co-operation with developing countries occupied an important place in the economic activities of CMEA member countries, which were concerned above all to create a material basis for the former to achieve economic independence. The Council was convinced that successful realization of the goals set by the International Development Strategy was possible only through progressive social and economic transformations, consolidation of the public sector and the planned development of national economies. To that end the CMEA member countries gave assistance to over 100 developing countries, notably in the form of credits on easy terms (over 12 to 15 years at rates of interest of 2.5 to 3 per cent). They also gave assistance in developing agriculture and solving food problems, provided developing countries with emergency assistance and helped them to train their national personnel and build up their scientific and technological potential, thus promoting the establishment of a new international economic order.

51. He recalled that co-operation between CMEA and the United Nations went back to the 1950s and was still very active. The Council enjoyed observer status with many United Nations organs and bodies and had established official relations with other United Nations organizations by agreement, or by exchanges of letters of

(Mr. Sytchev)

co-operation. CMEA member countries had always advocated implementation of the provisions of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference and of the final document of the subsequent Madrid meeting.

52. In addition, the Council had recently proposed negotiations with the European Economic Community which might result in the signature of a joint declaration envisaging the establishment of official relations between the Council and the Community. In conclusion, CMEA consistently supported increasing the role of the United Nations and of its associated organizations.

53. Miss VALLARINO (Panama) said that over the past ten years the problem of indebtedness, financial and monetary difficulties and the fall in production and international trade had become more serious and widespread. The Committee could acquire the means for effective action in that sphere if its members showed determination to adopt specific measures aimed at collective action. Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations remained the essential basis for the pursuit of international economic development aims, while the aspirations currently being expressed by the peoples were making global negotiations increasingly imperative.

54. The adoption by consensus of the conclusions of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade was an example of what could be achieved by a political will to succeed and a spirit of mutual understanding. By contrast, the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to Review the Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States were paralyzed by the confrontation between different political and economic systems. Her delegation was convinced that the normative principles of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order adopted in 1974 remained valid, and that the institution of a new international economic order could not leave aside the moral dimensions of the dignity and value of the human individual, which was the ultimate objective of the economic development activities undertaken by the international community.

55. To solve economic problems, mankind had enormous scientific and technological resources, which should enable the peoples of the developing countries to express freely their creativity and genius. There was therefore an increasingly urgent need to establish a world scientific and technological information network and to implement the Vienna Programme of Action by reviving the Financing System for Science and Technology for Development.

56. International economic development must be accompanied by the protection of the natural resources of the planet, the preservation of the environment and the restoration of the ecological balance. Panama attached importance to the conservation of tropical forests, the urgent need for which had been emphasized by the Executive Director of UNEP. Her Government, for its part, had set up a national committee on the environment and supported the establishment of an international funding agency to finance anti-desertification activities.

(Miss Vallarino, Panama)

57. Her delegation welcomed the co-operation between UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) as well as the creation of an environmental training network in Latin America and the Caribbean. Panama had attended and participated in the first Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver in 1976, and had been convinced by the new ideas and bold solutions proposed on that occasion. It welcomed the initiative that had led the General Assembly to declare the year 1987 the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Her country was pleased to have been elected a Latin American member of the Commission on Human Settlements for the period 1986-1988 and supported the idea of establishing a world housing bank to help promote activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in 1987.

58. On the subject of the effective participation of women in development, Panama had participated with interest in the Nairobi Conference and had listened attentively to the statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. It was convinced that women had a role to play in solving all the major problems facing mankind, and considered that the training of women was the best way of integrating them into the work force and of recognizing the contribution they could make to the development process, especially in rural areas.

59. Mr. JACOB (India) said that perspectives for the economic evolution of the developed countries in the coming years indicated the need for a decisive change from the models of growth which those countries were propagating because of the advantages they had brought them in the past. The interdependence of the global economy imposed choices based on mutual advantage.

60. The establishment of the new international economic order could bring a greater flow of resources to the economies of the developing countries on a predictable, assured and continuous basis. Furthermore, the restructuring of the world economy was necessary for the establishment of an equitable international division of labour. Lastly, greater equity was required in the decision-making process to reflect the changed situation and the contribution of the developing countries to the world economy.

61. Measures which could substantially improve future prospects were contained in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, to which his delegation attached the greatest importance. Its implementation could lead to sustained growth and development. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the Agreed Conclusions by the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy, and paid tribute to the untiring efforts of its Chairman. He hoped that a spirit of co-operation and compromise would permit concrete implementation measures to be worked out.

62. With regard to science and technology, his delegation noted that the Vienna Programme of Action had not been as effective as initially hoped, although a large number of countries, including India, had adopted a science and technology policy

(Mr. Jacob, India)

and were devoting additional resources to that area. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the thematic approach by the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. But it was disappointed that the long-term financing system for science and technology had not yet come into operation. In its view, the financing of activities in the area of science and technology should be a separate financing activity of the United Nations.

63. His delegation agreed with the analysis and shared the apprehension of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) regarding the dehumanization of the urban environment and the mega-cities of tomorrow, most of which would be located in the developing countries. The problem of shelter was an important dimension of the overall problem of poverty. India had adopted an integrated approach in that area and regarded the provision of shelter as a policy instrument to ensure social justice and higher economic growth. During the just concluded sixth five-year plan, 8 million families had benefited from action taken in that area; the seventh plan proposed to reach a target of 17 million families.

64. Action was also under way on programmes for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. An administrative structure had been set up at the national and local levels, and specific activities had started. Within the framework of the United Nations system, the magnitude of the problem of shelter was such as to require a larger flow of funds from all sources of financing.

65. His delegation had noted with interest the statement on the environment made by the Executive Director of UNEP and the concern he had expressed over the fate of tropical forests. India attached high priority to the problems of the environment and considered that efforts in that area should be fully integrated into the development process. Poverty itself was one of the causes of environmental deterioration, and the struggle against poverty should be linked to the safeguarding and preservation of the environment. Hazards and possible safeguards must be studied in a context related to the development of technology and its use in the world. Safety measures must be uniformly devised and applied. Any human life and any environment that was endangered anywhere in the world must be protected. His delegation hoped that UNEP would receive all the resources it required for its future work.

66. Mr. FLEMING (United States of America) said that his delegation was generally pleased with the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Governing Council of UNEP. The decisions taken on that occasion should help members of the Governing Council to evaluate the work of UNEP and assist in eliminating duplicate and marginally useful projects. At the same time, technical measures that had been taken should make for greater protection of the global environment and improved resource management. The United States was pleased to contribute to them. He noted with satisfaction that the Governing Council had restated its endorsement of UNEP's programme priorities, which, in general, correctly reflected the needs of both the developed and the developing countries.

(Mr. Fleming, United States)

67. The United States shared the Executive Director's concern at the state of tropical forests, particularly in Africa and Latin America, and at the resulting deterioration of the biosphere. His delegation had listened with interest to the Executive Director's proposals and looked forward to further discussion, bearing in mind the various initiatives taken in that area by other bodies.

68. The action undertaken to combat drought and desertification had been largely ineffective and needed to be restructured. The large number of different reports, resolutions and meetings on the subject were symptomatic of the need for reorganization. His delegation would like to see a co-ordination of the action undertaken by the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council on the one hand, and the various organizations of the United Nations system on the other hand. The United States appreciated UNEP's efforts and strongly supported the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification; UNEP should be entrusted with the co-ordination of effective international action.

69. In respect of human settlements, his delegation considered that the objective of all Governments should be to provide the population with decent and affordable housing. It commended the performance of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) with regard to programme delivery under severe resource constraints. It also welcomed the Centre's emphasis on enhancing, through technical co-operation, developing countries' housing capacity. The decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighth session should enable the Centre to work even more efficiently and economically. His country was prepared to continue its constructive participation in the Centre's work.

70. The agreed conclusions of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy were the result of a pragmatic approach to the problems involved. All delegations had shown willingness to compromise and a realistic attitude, and the data on which their decisions were based had been efficiently prepared by the Secretariat. The untiring efforts of the Chairman of that Committee had also contributed greatly to the agreement. The Second Committee's work should build on that foundation. His delegation had no doubt that an objective analysis of various development strategies would demonstrate the benefits to be gained by adopting market-oriented approaches based on freedom and individual initiative, rather than rigid centralized planning or State intervention.

71. That type of strategy became even more important in the sectors of the economy dominated by women. In many developing countries, women played an essential role in those economic activities where personal effort and initiative were fundamental. That was especially true in the least developed countries, where the private sector was the women's sector. Perhaps that was one reason why male-dominated official bureaucracies so strongly resisted options which would give free play to market forces. In the course of its work, the Second Committee must also tackle the difficult issue of deep-seated cultural traditions which denigrated the role of women and deprived them of access to the facilities which men considered exclusively their own.

(Mr. Fleming, United States)

72. In respect of document A/40/519 on long-term trends in economic development, his delegation considered that other international bodies, such as the World Bank and IMF, had the expertise and had already produced the same type of economic forecasts. The value of the report was questionable, even though the Secretariat had expended considerable resources on it. It seemed doubtful whether the document could be of help to any country in its economic development planning. Long-term forecasts had proved to be universal failures, the famous attempt by the Club of Rome being perhaps the best example. In addition, some statistics were completely absent, notably those concerning the development assistance and the armaments situation of countries with a centrally planned economy. The absence of such vital information detracted considerably from the study's value. His delegation doubted the relevance of the section on military expenditure, disarmament and development which was out of place in a document of that type and reached conclusions of questionable validity based on quite unrealistic assumptions. Because of all those drawbacks, his delegation was not convinced of the need for such reports in the future. It considered that the resources allotted to them could be better used for work of more practical relevance to the development needs of developing countries.

73. Mr. KUMARAN (Malaysia) said that the agreed conclusions reached by the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and its decision, in a spirit of consensus, to set aside differences for the time being, constituted a promising start.

74. The Strategy remained a valuable instrument for international co-operation in promoting development, although its adoption had not led to an improvement in the world economic situation. Indeed the apparent upturn in the United States economy had not had the expected effect in other countries, where the economic situation continued to deteriorate.

75. However, certain important issues were still the subject of controversy, and it was important to reach a consensus on them. It was strange that, although all countries agreed that the greatest danger was posed by the deterioration in the international trading system and increased protectionism, certain States did not display the political will required to fulfil the commitment to halt and roll back protectionism which they had undertaken at the GATT ministerial meeting in 1982 and to solve the problems which had been outstanding since the Tokyo Round. By showing a sincere desire to revitalize trade between developing and developed countries, those States would help to maintain the debate on the rationalization of the international trading system.

76. Another problem encountered by developing countries, whose economies were mostly dependent on the production of basic commodities, was a reduction in export earnings due to a sharp drop in commodity prices. Despite the discouraging results produced by international commodity agreements, the Integrated Programme for Commodities was still useful in that it enabled terms of trade to be adjusted in favour of producer countries while guaranteeing regular supplies for consumer countries. His delegation called upon all countries to support negotiations on new agreements, to renew expiring agreements and to work towards the establishment of the Common Fund for Commodities without delay.

(Mr. Kumaran, Malaysia)

77. Indebtedness, whose effects on growth in the developing countries deserved more detailed analysis, imposed an intolerable burden on debtor countries, especially the least developed countries. A substantial increase in the export earnings of developing countries, which was the only possible long-term solution, would basically depend on the degree and extent of economic recovery and on the trade policy decisions taken by the major countries. His delegation was in favour of a dialogue between debtor countries, creditor countries and financial institutions, and called upon all the parties concerned to agree on ways and means of resolving the debt problem.

78. Mr. YEGOROV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) affirmed his country's commitment to the principles laid down in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, which continued to play a vital part in regulating international economic co-operation for development. However, an examination of those two instruments had revealed that the existing structure of international economic relations did not ensure respect for the sovereign rights and legitimate interests of most countries, especially the developing countries. Yet, a number of capitalist countries which were openly boycotting the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee were refusing to recognize that fact. His delegation, for its part, was prepared to contribute actively to the completion of the review of the implementation of the Charter on the basis of the Ad Hoc Committee's report (A/40/S2), the conclusions submitted by the Group of 77 and the draft decision submitted by the socialist countries (A/AC.226/L.2).

79. The Byelorussian SSR had long since recognized the considerable political importance of the work of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy. Its views and its proposals on that subject were set out in detail in the relevant documents.

80. His delegation had joined the consensus in favour of the adoption of that Committee's report, because it reflected the interests of the Group of 77 and also contained a number of important ideas on development and disarmament. However, in view of its serious shortcomings, the report could be regarded only as a first step towards the solution of current economic problems.

81. The report on long-term trends in economic development (A/40/519) should be supplemented by concrete recommendations based on a detailed analysis of short-, medium- and long-term trends. The authors of the report, whose work was both comprehensive and useful, had addressed, inter alia, the question of the relation between disarmament and development. Although they had rightly pointed out that the allocation for development of resources made available by disarmament measures would give a strong impetus to economic growth, they had failed to mention the initiatives taken in that respect by the USSR and other socialist countries, which were reducing their military expenditure in order to contribute, inter alia, to economic development in the developing countries. Similarly, although the report indicated that many of the adverse effects of the recession during the years 1980 to 1982 had yet to be overcome, despite the relative recovery of certain Western economies, curiously it attached little importance to the repercussions of the

(Mr. Yegorov, Byelorussian SSR)

recession and the policy of the Western countries on conditions in the developing countries. Yet, the figures and data supplied clearly indicated that the gap between the capitalist countries and the developing countries was being further widened by the inequity of existing international economic relations. Not only did the economic growth rates of the developing countries fall far short of the targets set in the International Development Strategy, but they were actually declining in absolute terms under the effect of external factors such as protectionism, deteriorating terms of trade, declining export earnings, unstable exchange rates and a growing debt burden. Indeed, it would be exaggerated to impute the economic difficulties encountered by the developing countries to so-called "negligence" in their domestic economic policy-making, because such difficulties were in fact caused by increasingly intensive neo-colonialist exploitation by the Western Powers and transnational corporations.

82. The United Kingdom proposal requesting the Secretariat to study the effects of direct private foreign investment on the economies of the developing countries deserved attention. However, such a study should not be confined to the transfer of technology and the training of specialized personnel; rather, it should take into account all available data. Indeed, private investment also resulted in a considerable loss of resources for the developing countries in the form of interest payments and remitted profits, and, more insidiously, in a brain drain.

83. Although it was hardly surprising that the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States - which had for a long time been frustrating the initiatives of the socialist countries and the General Assembly resolutions in favour of disarmament and development - had qualified as unrealistic the forecasts concerning the reallocation of resources for peaceful purposes, it was much more peculiar that they should request the Secretariat to disregard in its study a set of official statistics submitted by Member States. That request was incompatible with the principles of the Organization.

84. The effective participation of women in development was a pre-condition not only of the improvement of their status but also of economic progress and development. The importance of their role in development had been stressed in the International Development Strategy as well as in the numerous other instruments adopted by the United Nations on that subject. However, the final document adopted at the Nairobi Conference had revealed that, despite the progress achieved in many countries, considerable obstacles still remained, such as the deterioration of the international situation, the continuation of the arms race, imperialism, apartheid, racism, exploitation and a lack of political will on the part of the industrialized countries to facilitate the implementation of the various United Nations instruments providing for the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis.

85. The Byelorussian SSR, considering that the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women was an important means of reinforcing their participation in development, had been one of the first countries to sign the convention on that subject and had adopted specific measures to place women on an

(Mr. Yegorov, Byelorussian SSR)

equal footing with men in terms of general and vocational training, work, pay and participation in social, political and cultural life. The material and cultural living standards enjoyed by the population, especially the women, had improved significantly during the past decade. The Byelorussian Government had increased the allowances and benefits granted to mothers for the education and health care of their children, maternity grants, etc. The experience of the Byelorussian SSR and the other socialist countries had convincingly demonstrated that women should, and must, play an active part in the development of their country.

86. Mrs. Eriksson (Sweden) took the Chair.

87. Mrs. DE DEL CUETO (Mexico) said that, although a large number of delegations had expressed satisfaction about the results of the work of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, care should be taken to ensure that the consensus which had been painstakingly reached would not be called again into question, and that the obligations undertaken would be fulfilled.

88. It was difficult to understand why certain countries had abstained from participating in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to Review the Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States not only because the principles embodied in the Charter, such as the permanent sovereignty of States over their wealth, natural resources, and economic activities, and the right of each State to determine the form of development most suited to it, were universally accepted, but also because States could have used that opportunity to agree upon areas in which joint action should be taken in order to ensure the full implementation of the Charter.

89. Human settlements activities had acquired a new dimension in Mexico in the aftermath of the September earthquake, which had suddenly disrupted the pattern of life of one of the largest cities in the world. According to provisional estimates made by ECLAC, in Mexico City alone 15,000 housing units had been destroyed and 55,000 damaged, 30 per cent of hospital capacity had been lost and, in the area of education, 1,300 schools and administrative offices had been affected. It was now possible to analyse the situation and draw lessons from that tragedy. Urgent solutions must be found to the problems of accommodating people who wished to remain in the same areas as before and who had improvised makeshift shelters. Reconstruction was under way and the issue of human settlements and development problems must now be considered from a new angle.

90. In that regard, on 30 October a meeting to be chaired by the Secretary-General would be held on the question of support for relief and reconstruction efforts in Mexico City and the affected areas. Mexico hoped to be able to benefit from the experience it had gained and thus contribute to United Nations activities in human settlements.

91. Concerning the integration of women in development, it should be noted that the hard-won advances in that area were on the wane owing to the crisis. The full participation of women in development required specific policies, educational and

(Mrs. de del Cueto, Mexico)

employment opportunities, respect for the principle of "equal pay for equal work" and the elimination of discriminatory practices, but an effective legal framework and the needed infrastructure must also be established.

92. Finally, she stressed the need for long-term structural reforms to solve the world's economic development problems and considered that the report on the overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000 (A/40/519) was especially useful, in that it indicated, on the basis of different scenarios and theories, trends which were most harmful to development and thus made it possible to adopt what seemed to be the most suitable measures.

93. Mr. ABU-KOASH (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) recalled that, in its resolution 39/169, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to organize a seminar on remedies for the deterioration of the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories and to report to the General Assembly at the current session on the seminar. He thanked both the Secretary-General and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for their efforts in preparing the seminar and ensuring its success, and welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories (A/40/373-E/1985/99). However, the report was based partly on Israeli statistics that did not show the real level of deterioration of the living conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation.

94. The Israeli occupying authorities had been implementing a systematic policy aimed at destroying the Palestinian national economy and making it dependent on Israel. Despite a high birth rate, after 18 years of Israeli occupation, the size of the population in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had declined. Expulsion, imprisonment, the suppression of human rights and the denial of permits for the reunification of families, against a background of economic decline, had created an environment which prompted the young and the educated to leave the territories.

95. The Israeli occupying authorities had appropriated more than 60 per cent of the land for expansionist purposes, in particular for establishing colonial settlements. In so doing, they had resorted to forgery and fraud, as recognized by former Prime Minister and current Minister for Foreign Affairs Shamir. They were monopolizing 90 per cent of the water resources and imposing severe restrictions on their use by Palestinians. The confiscation of land and water resources, restrictions on Palestinian farming and the dumping of subsidized Israeli agricultural products on the Palestinian market had caused serious damage to the agricultural sector.

96. The industrial sector was also suffering from the policies of occupation including dumping, restrictions on the import of equipment and raw materials and the blocking of several industrial development projects. It had been estimated that 66 per cent of Palestinian industrial firms were operating at no more than 50 per cent of capacity. Employment opportunities in the sector were therefore quite limited and many Palestinian workers had no alternatives but to seek employment in the Israeli economy or to emigrate.

(Mr. Abu-Koash, Observer, PLO)

97. External trade was also subject to Israeli domination. The occupying authorities had transformed the Palestinian territories into a captive market, constituting the second largest market for Israeli products after that of the United States, with 92 per cent of their imports originating in Israel and a total of \$4 billion worth of Israeli goods imported during the past five years.

98. The occupied Palestinian territories were deprived of all banking facilities including access to credit because the Israeli occupying authorities refused to allow Palestinian financial institutions to be established. They were also feeling the adverse impact of Israeli inflation, which, among other things, had diminished the real value of earnings, discouraged investment and increased unemployment. Whereas Israel had signed a free-trade-area agreement with the United States and had received aid from it totalling \$4 billion in 1985, besides funds from other sources, the Israeli occupying authorities restricted and often prevented external aid to the occupied territories. Moreover, they imposed high taxes, amounting to approximately 33 per cent of the territories' income.

99. The brutality of the South African racist régime was mirrored in the occupied Palestinian territories. Both the South African and the Palestinian peoples were revolting against tyranny, loss of freedom and the suppression of national and human rights. On behalf of the PLO, he expressed his solidarity with the peoples of South Africa and Namibia. Peace was a prerequisite for social and economic development, and there could be no just peace in the Middle East until all the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories were liberated from Israeli occupation and until the Palestinian people were permitted to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to return to Palestine and the rights to self-determination and independence.

100. Mr. NKOBEA (Cameroon) welcomed the consensus reached at the resumed session of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, which perhaps ushered in a new realism. He expressed the hope that that spirit would guide the deliberations of the Second Committee. However, it was to be regretted that, at the mid-point of the Decade, trends towards implementing the policy measures set out in the Strategy remained far short of the established targets, particularly in view of the deteriorating economic situation in Africa, most noticeably in the least developed countries of the continent. The report in document A/AC.219/96 showed, for example, that of the 32 African countries considered, the number whose real GDP had decreased had risen from 12 in 1979 to 23 in 1984. There was no indication that the situation would improve in the foreseeable future, unless emergency measures, both short-term and long-term, were taken to that end. That explained why the call for a special session of the General Assembly on the critical African economic situation deserved serious consideration. As a demonstration of the importance which the Government and people of his country attached to the issue, it had agreed to host the 12th meeting of the Conference of Ministers of ECA in April 1986, the focal point of which would be the search for concrete solutions.

(Mr. Nkoben, Cameroon)

101. His Government had always believed that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States could play a catalytic role in the establishment of a new international economic order. Had the measures required in order to implement that instrument been taken, the prevailing crises would have been less severe in scope and intensity. However, 10 years after its adoption, only meagre progress had been achieved to that end. His delegation commended the constructive spirit shown by a number of developed countries at the most recent session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to Review the Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and urged all other developed countries to take the same co-operative attitude towards the draft resolution adopted at the conclusion of the session. It invited all members to make concrete proposals, both within the Second Committee and in other international forums, to enhance the speedy implementation of the measures prescribed in the Charter.

102. Science and technology constituted another issue which his Government considered crucial for bridging the ever-widening gap between the rich and poor countries and for finding lasting solutions to the chronic world economic crises and disequilibria. It constituted the most important and dynamic exogenous factor capable of generating accelerated and sustained economic development in the developing countries. However, negotiations under way for several years on such key matters as the code of conduct for the transfer of technology, and the reform of the international patent system and reverse transfer of technology had reached an impasse, and only meagre results had been achieved in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology. His delegation commended the very useful work of various United Nations bodies to strengthen the scientific and technological capabilities of the developing countries. However, such efforts had been hampered by a lack of adequate financial resources; a case in point was General Assembly resolution 37/244 on the establishment of the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, which had remained unimplemented, owing to the failure by some developed countries to meet their earlier commitments to it.

103. The developing countries had hardly benefited from the great strides in scientific and technological progress made since the Second World War, and Africa remained the continent with the lowest annual rate of increase in scientific and technical personnel. That situation resulted not only from the global economic crisis, which compelled the developing countries to divert substantial productive resources to meet immediate needs, but also from the egoism of certain Powers.

104. The need to restructure the prevailing pattern of scientific and technological relations had become evident, and his delegation fully supported the draft resolutions before the Committee on the various aspects of technology.

105. The question of human settlements occupied a key role in the development policy of his country, and the Ministry of Housing and Town Planning had scored great successes in meeting targets set in both rural and urban areas. It was for that reason his Government was keenly interested, and participated actively, in the work of United Nations bodies in that field. It supported the resolutions and

(Mr. Nkoben, Cameroon)

decisions adopted at the eighth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, even though they were not as far-reaching as it would have wished. It was regrettable that so far only 64 countries had made voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. More serious support from all Member States was required if the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements was to cope with its increasingly heavy responsibilities. His delegation also invited all countries to co-operate fully to ensure the success of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

106. With regard to the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, his country was among the few in the world that had established a ministry for Women's Affairs charged with promoting the role of women in development. At the international level, his Government supported activities to strengthen that role and fully endorsed the forward-looking strategies and consensus text adopted at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women held at Nairobi. His delegation invited all countries to adopt a positive attitude towards the strategies.

107. With regard to the future perspective outlined in the report in document A/40/519, his delegation believed that States must co-operate in finding practical solutions to prevailing problems, particularly with regard to the crisis in Africa. It therefore called on all members of the Second Committee to demonstrate flexibility and the necessary political will to adopt the appropriate measures.

108. Mr. MOKKADEM (Tunisia), referring to the International Development Strategy, said that the fragile balance reached by the Committee established to review its implementation should not obscure the need to make structural changes in international economic relations so as to ensure sustained and lasting economic growth. The foreign-debt burden of the developing countries and the critical economic situation in Africa had prompted a sudden awareness in the international community which should be followed up with concrete and urgent collective action. That would bring States closer to the objectives of the International Development Strategy, objectives that were not unattainable given the requisite political will.

109. His delegation was disappointed that certain developed countries had not participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to Review the Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and at the lack of results following that work. The Charter was a fundamental instrument for international co-operation. What mattered was not whether its contents remained valid, but rather to what extent States were prepared to work together to overcome the current major economic difficulties and what measures were needed. His country was convinced that, differences aside, it was possible to take joint action and thereby contribute to the restoration of confidence in multilateralism and in instruments for international economic co-operation. In that regard, he referred to document A/40/519 on the overall socio-economic perspectives of the world economy to the year 2000, which rightly noted that the outcome of the development decades demonstrated that, given the interdependence of all countries, a climate conducive to international economic co-operation was of prime importance to sustain their rate of growth.

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(Mr. Mekkadem, Tunisia)

110. With regard to science and technology, his delegation felt that both would open up broad development prospects, provided that human resources were revalorized; the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development should therefore be stepped up. The strengthening of the scientific and technological capacity of the developing countries required significant technical and financial support from the developed countries. In that regard, although the establishment of long-term financial and institutional arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development continued to cause great difficulties, the measures proposed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.2/40/4), which Tunisia was prepared to consider, could under any circumstance be only a temporary arrangement and could in no event replace the System as it was defined in General Assembly resolution 37/244. Moreover, those proposals would not prove useful unless they were accompanied by a commitment on the part of the developed countries to contribute adequately to the financing of the proposed interim arrangement.

111. The Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme drew attention to a series of problems, notably that of desertification. If desertification was not urgently combated, the economy of the African countries in question could not long resist its deadly effects. Consequently, the forthcoming African environmental conference was being held just in time to define an appropriate strategy. Many plans of action had been adopted, and if they had not yielded all the expected results it was largely because of the African countries' shortage of financial and technical resources. UNEP was a good instrument for mobilizing those resources. His delegation also fully supported the preparation of the study on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, and, in its view, there was a need to complete and extend the domain of international environmental law.

112. With regard to human settlements, Tunisia felt that the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless was a good opportunity for drawing up appropriate national policies on the subject. The Tunisian Government, for its part, had recently established a National Development Department as a branch of the Ministry of Planning. That body had been charged with defining urbanization and housing policy under the national economic and social development plan.

113. With regard to the effective mobilization and integration of women in development, Tunisia felt that the world survey on the role of women in development had greatly facilitated the work of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women; that Conference had made it possible to identify the major problems and fields of action which called for more effort on the part of the international community. Tunisia had made the emancipation of women one of the essential components of its economic and social development, and it was trying by various means to make women agents of economic development on an equal footing with men.

114. In conclusion, with regard to the new international human order, his country admitted the importance of the moral aspects of development but felt that the concept would gain by being made more precise.

115. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria) said that the implementation in practice of the principles laid down in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and in the International Development Strategy would no doubt lead to a radical solution of the existing economic problems and to a just and democratic restructuring of the current inequitable system of international economic relations. Although 10 years had elapsed since the adoption of those documents, it must be noted that no real progress had been made, for well-known reasons. The socialist countries had repeatedly expressed their firm support of the developing countries' efforts to find a just and lasting solution to economic problems. The Declaration adopted at the meeting of the States members of the Warsaw Pact was a new manifestation of that constructive policy. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to Review the Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States had reaffirmed the importance of the Charter as an instrument for the restructuring of international economic relations on a just and democratic basis. Although the majority of delegations taking part in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee had recognized that fact, consensus had been reached on the draft final document submitted by the Group of 77. His delegation shared the opinion that the process of reviewing the implementation of the Charter had not been concluded and expressed its readiness to continue the review on the basis of the documents submitted to the Committee (A/AC.226/L.1 and L.2).

116. As to the recently concluded work of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy, he felt, while not underestimating the importance of the adopted document, that owing to the approach adopted by some countries, the Committee had been, on the whole, unable to carry out its mandate. A number of provisions of great importance for the implementation of the objectives of the Strategy had not been included in the final document which had been adopted. The latter failed to reflect the tasks of implementing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, of launching - within the framework of the United Nations - global negotiations on international economic co-operation, of finalizing the code of conduct for transnational corporations and of completely eliminating the policies of colonialism, neo-colonialism and apartheid. Nor did the document in question say that it was necessary to restructure the current financial and monetary system, eliminate protectionism and the negative consequences of the activities of transnational corporations, curb the outflows of financial resources from developing countries, support socio-economic change in developing countries and declare the inadmissibility of economic sanctions. The socialist countries had, nevertheless, joined in the consensus on the document, in the belief that it could none the less play a positive role in the concerted efforts to solve the economic problems faced by the international community and to promote peace, security, disarmament, mutual confidence and co-operation.

117. Bulgaria attached particular importance to questions relating to science and technology for development. It therefore supported the efforts to enhance the effectiveness and co-ordinating role of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. It commended the decision, taken by the Committee at its sixth session, to undertake at its next sessions more detailed and in-depth consideration of problems of science and technology. It also endorsed the

(Mr. Raichev, Bulgaria)

consideration by the Committee of an item concerning the establishment of scientific and technical information systems for development, and it felt that such systems should be carried out on the basis of the existing information systems of the United Nations and more effective utilization of their data banks. His delegation favoured the continuation of concrete work to implement all progressive decisions of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development. It felt that the role of the regional commissions in that field should be strengthened.

118. Bulgaria had actively participated in the work of the Commission on Human Settlements, and it regarded as particularly useful the establishment in the developing countries of personnel training centres in that field. Bulgaria devoted particular attention to the decisions adopted by the Commission at its eighth session concerning the housing programme for the Palestinian population in the occupied Palestinian territories and assistance to victims of apartheid and colonialism in southern Africa, as well as the contribution of the Commission to the International Year of Peace and the activities within the framework of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless in the occupied Palestinian territories. Bulgaria was of the view that efforts to upgrade co-ordination between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme should be encouraged. It also supported the decision taken by the Commission to adopt a biennial cycle for its sessions.

119. Bulgaria attached particular importance to problems of environmental protection and believed that they could be solved only through concerted action by the entire international community. UNEP, whose role in that respect was indisputable, should continue to give priority to the problems concerning the relationship between population resources development and the environment and the ecological aspects of the International Development Strategy. He commended UNEP's efforts to establish a global monitoring system and the joint efforts of UNEP and ECE in the field of pollutant-free technologies and transborder pollution. His country attached primary importance to the problem of the link between environmental protection and disarmament. In that connection, he recalled that, at the thirteenth session of the UNEP Governing Council, the delegation of Bulgaria had proposed that an international ecological symposium entitled "Environmental Protection and Maintenance of Peace on the Planet" should be held in Bulgaria, in 1986, because it was convinced that such a meeting would help to promote and strengthen international co-operation to save mankind from an ecological and nuclear catastrophe.

120. His country attached particular importance to the role of women in development. Like the majority of delegations, he believed that the Nairobi Conference had made a positive contribution in that regard. It was generally recognized that the role of women in the struggle for peace, national liberation, social progress and the political, social and cultural development of countries had been growing recently. However, considerable obstacles to the full implementation of the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women still remained, and it was the responsibility of the United Nations to strive to remove those obstacles and to contribute to the integration and equal participation of women in development.

121. Mr. MADRIZ FORNOS (Nicaragua) said that the International Development Strategy was one of the basic instruments of international co-operation. It was therefore indispensable and urgent that the developed countries should adopt effective measures to achieve its objectives. He also reaffirmed the absolute validity of all the chapters and articles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. He reiterated his grave concern over the attitude adopted by several developed countries at the most recent meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to Review the Implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and he hoped that, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, all those who, in one way or another, had impeded the implementation of the Charter would reverse their position. He launched a special appeal to the Government of the United States to show the political will necessary for the implementation of the Charter, which it had not only blocked on many occasions but whose provisions it had clearly violated, thus contravening General Assembly resolutions. He recalled the many actions taken by the Government of the United States against Nicaragua such as the recently imposed trade embargo, which was a violation of a whole series of fundamental principles of international law.

122. In a world of unfair economic relations and increasing needs, technological development played a very important part, and Nicaragua believed that transfers of technology to the developing countries were a matter of urgent and primordial necessity. Those transfers should not be subject to any condition which might compromise the sovereignty and self-determination of States. Science and technology should be instruments for the development of the international community. The refusal of a number of developed countries to accept the principle of the unconditional transfer of technology to the developing countries and the difficulties encountered with regard to the proposed financing system, were a major obstacle to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action. An appeal should be launched to the international community to strive to find formulas which would facilitate the development of that system. The same held true for the adoption of the International Code of Conduct on the Transfer of Technology, on which agreement had not yet been reached.

123. With regard to the integration of women in development, the Government of Nicaragua felt that it was essential to devise projects to advance and integrate women in development as decisive agents of development. To that end, all social differences between men and women would have to be eliminated, especially with regard to the social, political and economic status of women, which fell far short of promoting the development of third world countries. In Nicaragua, women participated fully in building the new society, and the Government had implemented many plans which had led to the effective integration of women in all areas of national life. The delegation of Nicaragua welcomed and supported the positive results achieved at the Nairobi Conference, because it was convinced that they would help to promote and improve the status of women throughout the world, which would make a great impact on world economic development and the establishment of a new international economic order.

124. Ms. GLYNN (Honduras) said that her country attached great importance to the environment because it was convinced that the long-term survival of the planet could be guaranteed only by continuous monitoring of the relation between population, resources for development and the environment. Her delegation fully supported the statement by the Executive Director of UNEP that the fight against drought and desertification should be given priority because of its catastrophic side effects. Her delegation joined the appeals to the international community to provide the resources needed to deal with the world's serious environmental problems.

125. Because the forest was one of the main sources of potential wealth of Honduras, the Government had recognized that plans should be made for its ecological development, that environmental protection techniques should be improved and that the diversity of the biological system should be diversified. It had, therefore, drawn up a programme for forestry conservation, afforestation to prevent soil erosion, the creation of green belts and genetic reserves to preserve the variety of indigenous species. That programme had been combined with rural development projects. The implementation of those programmes had shown the need for technical assistance. Environmental protection required priority attention from the international community and especially from the developing countries, which should draw up projects to ensure ecologically sound production in which resources were husbanded through development and the use of technology.

126. On human settlements, she said that her delegation set store by the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its eighth session, the implementation of which should help to provide the homeless and the neediest groups with the infrastructures and services they required. Given that by the year 2010, most of the world's population would be living in urban settlements and increasingly large towns, it was vital that decision-makers should be aware of those problems and work out policies designed to lay the foundations for a more just society. Her delegation was convinced that only through a joint effort by all sectors would it be possible to improve the lot of that 25 per cent of the world's population that was currently ill-housed and living in unsanitary and unhealthy conditions. The need to find additional sources of financing for the Centre must not be underestimated, therefore, in view of the fact that the developed countries' voluntary contributions to the programme of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless had fallen short. Her delegation had noted with satisfaction the co-ordination achieved in the activities of the United Nations system, which should be further strengthened at the global and national levels. Honduras, which had embarked on a series of programmes on behalf of the most disadvantaged groups, including self-help construction projects, was closely following the work of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and was pleased that its research and development activities were being directed towards building techniques that took into account the needs of low-income groups.

127. Turning to the participation and integration of women in development, she said that her delegation allied itself with all those which recognized the important contributions of women to development. The objectives of the Honduran national development plan included, among other things, increasing and improving the

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conditions for the participation of women, particularly the poorest, in the economic process. To that end, Honduras was currently revising and adapting its labour legislation. A common denominator of nearly all developing countries was that much still remained to be done, particularly in rural areas. Honduras therefore appealed to all countries to see that legislation to ensure equality and advancement for women was effectively applied. The position of women in Latin America, particularly in urban environments, demonstrated that they were not yet fully integrated into the development process for attitudes were slow to change and the cultural stereotypes were in general unfavourable to them as far as decision-making and their place in society as a whole were concerned. Her delegation hoped that the strategies adopted by consensus at the Nairobi Conference would be duly implemented, so as to take advantage of the human resources potential of women and to give them a greater role in development.

128. Mr. LOPEZ (Ecuador) noted with satisfaction that the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy had succeeded in arriving at agreed conclusions whereby the international community reaffirmed the validity of the Strategy and restated its concern regarding the acute problems of the developing countries. Although responsibility for development lay primarily with the developing countries, the international community had undertaken in the Strategy to support their efforts by promoting positive changes in international economic and political relations, including a solution to the debt problem.

129. The problem of external indebtedness, far from being recent, had been confronting Ecuador and Latin America as a whole ever since independence. In the belief that frankness was vital for solving problems, Ecuador had no hesitation in affirming that it was largely responsible for its own indebtedness and that past errors must be corrected. That was why it had put into effect practical measures, shown great discipline in regard to expenditure, and rectified its economic, monetary, financial and exchange policies. It had renegotiated its debt service, which over the period 1985-1989 would represent only 28 per cent of export earnings, as against 70 per cent in 1984.

130. Equally frankly, Ecuador emphasized that the creditor countries and the international financial and banking institutions must recognize their own share of responsibility. Ecuador was in no way responsible for the mistaken economic policies of the industrialized countries (high real interest rates, inflationary policies, protectionism).

131. The debt problem was closely linked to the exchange problem. The developing countries would not have the resources they needed to honour their commitments if they could not sell their products at just and remunerative prices. Only a political dialogue of the kind urged by the signatories to the Cartagena Agreement would make it possible to find a just, lasting and equitable solution. The crisis was not purely technical or arithmetical; it was political and therefore must be solved at the political level. Ecuador was confident that the leaders of the industrialized countries would see to it that the goal of political dialogue was realized.

132. Mr. LEE (Canada) said that environmental problems were rarely unique to one country. Thus, the serious problem of acid rain affected vast areas of North America and Europe. Canada had therefore welcomed the agreement, signed at Helsinki in July 1985, whereby 21 countries had undertaken to reduce sulphur emissions and transboundary pollution by 30 per cent by 1994. Canada was making considerable progress in developing a control strategy for harmful emissions. As part of a comprehensive policy, the Federal Government had embarked on an action plan, working out with the affected provinces the steps to be taken to cut sulphur dioxide emissions by 50 per cent by 1994, and committing itself to undertaking a series of very important programmes for that purpose.

133. Although Canada had abundant renewable fresh-water supplies, in several regions there were imbalances between demand and supply. Moreover, the problem of toxic chemical contamination of water was of growing concern. A major Federal inquiry had been carried out and a number of basic principles adopted, whereby consumers were to pay for their water supply, in order to be made to recognize the value of water, and projects were to be subjected to systematic analysis with regard to their economic implications and possible risks. In the Sudano-Sahelian region of Africa, the joint actions of man and nature - desertification and drought - made the water problem crucial. A more comprehensive approach must be taken in addressing the problem, given the close interrelationship of environmental management with food and agriculture production. Environmental objectives should be given priority across the whole spectrum of anti-desertification and famine-relief policies. Similarly, short-term remedial programmes, largely in the form of emergency food aid, were too limited in scope and must be accompanied by long-term environmental management measures to prevent future drought and famine. Corrective environmental action must be sociological and political as well as technical. Generally speaking, better organization was needed in dealing with desertification. A holistic approach must be taken, avoiding overlapping or piecemeal action that would impede the work on that very important subject. Since Africa was not the only place where there were serious water-supply problems, it was important not to lose sight of the global picture. Beyond the pressing needs of the day, action must be taken to ensure the world's water future. Many long-term issues would have to be addressed, including effective water management and recycling, improvement of drinking-water supplies and sanitation, the problem of toxic wastes, and more efficient irrigation methods.

134. The thirteenth session of the Governing Council of UNEP had been productive, and extraneous political issues had been kept to a minimum. His delegation welcomed the establishment of a new open-ended committee of resident permanent representatives, as it would greatly facilitate UNEP's adjustment to a biennial cycle. Regarding the 1988-1989 programme budget, Canada believed that UNEP needed to articulate a basic programme strategy, as the Governing Council had requested in its decision 13/15. On financial questions and the setting of priorities and attainable goals, it was a welcome development that those activities were currently under review for the purpose of ascertaining their cost-effectiveness, and that an exercise was under way to enhance the return on government contributions. He also welcomed the stress laid by the 1985 report on the state of the environment on the

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environmental aspects of agricultural technologies and population questions. A useful topic for a future report might be the prevention of incidents involving hazardous chemicals by examining the potential for closer co-operation between the existing International Programme on Chemical Safety and the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals. UNEP's Earthwatch programme was of fundamental importance, and his delegation urged all countries to support the programme's global resources information data base (GRID) project. Canada would be a major contributor to the programme and, in particular, would provide data on soil monitoring. The adoption of a substantive omnibus resolution on environmental issues would be most welcome.

135. The integration of women in development was an economic imperative. Women played a vital role in industry, agriculture and the service sectors. However, that role continued to be insufficiently recognized and remunerated. The income of women was crucial not only for the family but also for the overall development of the community; failure to recognize women's potential had been counter-productive for the development process. Policies regarding the situation of women had so far been oriented towards social rather than economic objectives. There was a need to assess systematically the impact on women of any policy or programme and to ensure that their concerns were taken into account at all levels and in all sectors of the economy. Governments and international bodies must take steps to ensure that women were involved, on equal terms with men, in development planning. The time had come for the United Nations to address the economic role of women seriously. The world survey on the role of women in development (A/CONF.116/4) was an important contribution to the understanding of that role and would also draw attention to the problems of data collection and to the obstacles encountered by women workers, particularly low wages and unequal employment opportunities. Member States should certainly pursue the matter.

136. It was very likely that women had been affected by recent trends in international trade and finance and by the national policies carried out in response to those trends. It would be timely for the United Nations to analyse the implications of those trends for women's integration in economic development. Research on the issue could be reflected in the periodic updates of the world survey. The Second Committee should begin a more substantive consideration of the question at the current session, on the basis of the many documents prepared by the United Nations. The contribution of women to development had been seriously underestimated at the planning stage for lack of statistical information. The Second Committee should therefore draw attention to the lack of a data base and should study the major obstacles confronting women, namely, low salaries, limited access to education and training, and lack of employment opportunities. Much greater understanding was needed of the employment patterns of women and their interrelationship with migration and other demographic issues.

137. His delegation welcomed the recent consensus document which reaffirmed the validity of the International Development Strategy as a general framework for the development process in the 1980s. The parallel use of a text on agreed conclusions and a statement by the Chairman had represented a realistic assessment of areas of

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agreement and disagreement. His delegation would have preferred a greater focus on the economic measures to be taken by countries, for an appropriate domestic policy framework must be the basic ingredient in the development process in all countries. His delegation would also have preferred a specific reference to the importance of the new multilateral trade round. As was well known, Canada accepted the 0.7 per cent of GNP target for official development assistance and the 0.15 per cent of GNP target for least developed countries, targets which should be met as soon as possible.

138. The Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development had achieved modest but positive results at its sixth session. In particular, it had adopted a resolution which should result in improved utilization of scientific information and material in developing countries. It was essential, however, that States members of that Committee should be represented by experts who, on the basis of their credentials, could address such questions in depth.

139. Canada did not entirely concur with all the assumptions and projections put forward in the report entitled "Overall socio-economic perspective of the world economy to the year 2000" (A/40/519) but nevertheless supported the Secretary-General's efforts to develop a practically oriented perspective. In particular, the focus on a longer-term framework, which emerged in the sections on socio-economic issues and on the crisis in Africa, was valid.

140. Mr. DIOP (Senegal) said that Senegal had firmly committed itself alongside the international institutions, including UNEP, UNDP and UNSO, which were contributing both conceptually and operationally to the struggle against drought and desertification. UNSO had some remarkable achievements to its credit in co-operation with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and with the countries of the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development. It was to be hoped that it would also assist the countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, as had been recommended at the thirty-ninth session.

141. Senegal approved all the actions taken by UNEP. The forthcoming conference in Dakar which was to work out an agreed policy to combat desertification and to protect nature would be a sound preparation for the meeting of African ministers of the environment to be held in Cairo in December 1985.

142. In regard to the work on drought and desertification, the African countries as a whole believed that the agenda items on those phenomena must be consolidated. As the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had pointed out, those questions must be dealt with in a more coherent manner and in such a way that the effort was consistent with the needs. There must be no going back on past achievements. Those achievements included General Assembly resolutions on measures for the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, which UNSO had implemented in a very satisfactory manner; the adoption and implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification through a specific mechanism, particularly the financial

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agreement between UNEP and UNDP; General Assembly resolution 35/90, which had been successfully implemented by UNSO and which had recommended the creation of an intergovernmental agency to co-ordinate and support the action for medium- and long-term relief taken by the countries of the Horn of Africa to combat drought and other natural disasters; the creation of an appropriate agency whose charter and programme would be drafted in the near future; and the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly of the question of countries stricken by desertification and drought, a complex issue which had been examined from all angles.

143. The rehabilitation of the countries stricken by drought and desertification should be an integral part of the general process of medium- and long-term development on the basis of a multisectoral approach. Africa certainly would need emergency relief, but above all it would have to improve infrastructures, develop transport and marshal water resources. The countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel had acquired vast experience in that connection and the benefits thereof must not be lost.

144. Mr. ELYASHIV (Israel) said that the many reports of the United Nations and the specialized agencies on the living conditions of the Palestinian Arabs in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza were vitiated by bias and misrepresentation and distorted the facts. For example, that was so in the case of the report of the Secretary-General in document A/40/373-E/1985/99, whose partiality had been obvious from the outset, since it had been prepared in implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/169; that resolution referred to the deterioration of the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, which was tantamount to condemning Israel in advance of any investigation.

145. The report of the Secretary-General was based on the wilful suppression and misuse of statistical data, with the aim of presenting the enlightened policy of socio-economic promotion pursued by Israel as cruel oppression. The very statistics that the report purported to quote revealed that, unlike the rest of the Middle East, the areas under consideration had undergone unparalleled economic and social development, which could, moreover, easily be confirmed on the ground. For example, the observation in paragraph 14 of the report that "employment in Israel and emigration from the occupied territories were explained to a large extent by reduced opportunities in the occupied territories" was at variance with the figures quoted in the 1984 report of the Director-General of ILO; according to those figures the unemployment rate, which had fallen from 4.1 per cent in 1970 to 1 per cent in 1982, had been 1.5 per cent of the active population in the period from January to September 1983. That level of employment was far higher than employment levels in many developing countries; the unemployment rate had been above 10 per cent prior to 1967, during the Jordanian occupation. Moreover, the authors of the report ignored the emigration that had taken place under Jordanian rule and did not point out that emigration was a widespread phenomenon in the Arab world, owing largely to economic development in the oil-producing countries.

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146. It was regrettable that the report of the Secretary-General did not make statistical comparisons between the economic situation of the Palestinian Arabs and that of the Arab neighbours of Israel. Of course, that was no oversight, for the figures in question showed clearly how successful the Israeli policy of economic liberalism and tolerance was. At a time of slowed growth in many parts of the world, per capita GNP had risen by 8.8 per cent per annum in real terms in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District and per capita GDP by 7.1 per cent per annum since 1970. The latter rate by far exceeded the corresponding rates in the Arab world (3.8 per cent in Egypt, 4.2 per cent in the Maghreb, 5.5 per cent in Iraq and 6.5 per cent in Syria). As a result of that remarkable economic expansion, the population of Judaea and Samaria had increased by 31.5 per cent in the period from 1968 to the end of 1983, while that of the Gaza District had risen by 38.2 per cent during the same period. A policy of deliberate repression and depopulation yielding such results would clearly be the most inept and laughable one on record.

147. Paragraph 32 of the report of the Secretary-General acknowledged that "industry in the occupied territories" had been "underdeveloped before the occupation". In the period 1967-1981 the average annual industrial growth rate for Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District had been 7.7 per cent; in the period 1980-1982, 16.4 per cent of all workers employed in Judaea and Samaria and 17.2 per cent in the Gaza District had been engaged in industry. The authors of the report had taken care not to quote those figures, which refuted the claim made in paragraph 13 that industry was stagnant.

148. In the area of housing, the report noted "the poor state of housing" (para. 65) and did not say a word about the spectacular achievements of the Israeli administration: new housing starts had risen from 130,000 m² in the period 1969-1970 to 795,000 m² in the period 1981-1982 in Judaea and Samaria and from 16,000 m² to 258,000 m² in the Gaza District.

149. With regard to the vital area of water resources, the report claimed that Palestinian landowners had lost control over their water resources and that the digging of new wells by Palestinians had been prohibited (para. 11). In fact, there were no restrictions on the digging of new wells for domestic use. Israel was endeavouring to maintain the existing facilities and to improve services and had simply retained and implemented the Jordanian laws of 1966. For example, the pumping capacity of the Bethlehem Beit Sahur-Beit Jala area had risen from 260,000 m³ in 1966 to 3.5 million m³ in 1983.

150. There had also been encouraging results in agriculture, where production had risen by approximately 10 per cent per annum in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Grade could have expanded even more, if it had not been for the Arab boycott on the exports of Judaea and Samaria.

151. In the area of higher education, even the report acknowledged that the "establishment of a Palestinian system of higher education which included six universities serving more than 10,000 students was considered a singular achievement in a society under occupation" (para. 70). In that connection, attention should be drawn to the fact that no universities had been established in

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Judeaa and Samaria in the course of the 19 years of Jordanian occupation and that the growth of higher education facilities since 1967 in the countries neighbouring Israel was in no way comparable.

152. Although the report indicated in paragraph 8 that educated young people lacking suitable opportunities for work in the occupied territories sought such opportunities in other countries, primarily the neighbouring Arab States, it did not place that fact in the context of the large-scale movements of both skilled and unskilled labour occurring throughout the Middle East. That phenomenon was by no means unique to the areas under consideration.

153. In the area of health, whereas the report claimed that "public health infrastructure and sanitation facilities were extremely inadequate as a result of the occupation and the drastic cuts in local budgets for the health services" (para. 87), it should be pointed out that in Judeaa and Samaria the number of maternal and child health centres had tripled since 1967 and that the number of clinics had almost doubled. Hospital births had risen from under 10 per cent in 1967 to 85 per cent in 1982 in Gaza and from 13.5 per cent in 1968 to 43.6 per cent in 1982 in Judeaa and Samaria. Even more significantly, the infant mortality rate had dropped from 86 per thousand live births in 1968 to 38.2 per thousand in 1983, thus becoming the lowest in the Middle East.

154. The report as a whole chose to minimize the significant improvements in the living conditions of the Palestinian Arabs in Judeaa, Samaria and the Gaza District and, instead, to base most of its findings on false assertions. No falsifications, baseless accusations or one-sided resolutions would deter Israel from maintaining its policy of social and economic development.

155. The position of Israel on the future of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the question of the Palestinian Arabs in all its aspects, had been set forth in the Framework for Peace in the Middle East, which was in conformity with Security Council resolution 242 (1967) and invited the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of Judeaa, Samaria and the Gaza District to play an active role in shaping their future through participation in negotiations. Unfortunately, it had become a ritual to engage in relentless hostilities and political warfare against Israel in the Second Committee and many other forums. Israel rejected all allegations that aimed to create confusion and exploit faked issues for political purposes. Since some speakers had regrettably calumniated Israel and Zionism, his delegation wished to point out that Zionism was the outgrowth of the Jewish quest for self-determination and that it represented the modern expression of the Jewish heritage. Those pernicious attacks were nothing but manifestations of anti-Semitism, which was one of the most virulent forms of racism known to mankind. His delegation denounced the hatred and ignorance that were the motivating forces behind those who relentlessly sought to further the anti-Semitic, anti-Israeli and anti-peace campaign. It denounced those who had the impudence to accuse others of racism, while they were oppressing, torturing and massacring minorities in their countries. Lastly, it denounced those whose malicious and racist statements were nothing but yet another despicable attempt to undermine the principles of international harmony and understanding.

156. The CHAIRMAN, referring to the statement made by the representative of Israel, announced that the representatives who had made known their wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply would do so at a subsequent meeting, since it was so late.

The meeting rose at 9.30 p.m.