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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 25th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GHEZAL (Tunisia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/44/3, A/44/637)

Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.12

1. Mr. TAI (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, introduced for consideration by the Committee draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.12 entitled "Net transfer of resources from developing countries and its impact on their economic growth and development".
2. The Group of 77 had held extensive consultations regarding the convening of a United Nations conference on the environment and development and was studying all proposals made by those who had participated in the debates in order to ensure that all views would be reflected and given due attention. The process was proceeding well and the Group of 77 would be able to discuss the question in depth on 9 or 10 November. The Group wished to express its views as a group and it was therefore better if, under the circumstances, other delegations working with them did not undertake bilateral contacts. The document being prepared by the Group incorporated the unofficial Swedish document and various proposals made in the informal consultations held both within the Group and with other delegations.

Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.13

3. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.13 entitled "Human resources development", said that an effective mobilization and a systematic development of human resources was of crucial importance to the social and economic development of a country, and that the readiness to do so was more perceptible now than ever before. Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/120 on the development of human resources reflected that goal and laid down the future orientation of United Nations endeavours in that area. Specific proposals and measures had to be formulated with a view to shaping international economic co-operation in further detail, in keeping with the requirements of the day. The development of human resources fit into that concept.
4. Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.13 drew attention to the interrelationship of those aspects and had the General Assembly endorse Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/120, taking into account the long-term goals and the resolution's fundamental importance for future activities in that field. It was his understanding that the text of that resolution would be annexed to the General Assembly resolution, and he hoped that all delegations would agree to the proposal so that draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.13 could be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.14

5. Mr. STOBY (Secretary of the Committee) drew the Committee's attention to a drafting error in draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.14 entitled "Implementation of

(Mr. Stoby)

General Assembly resolution 42/165". In paragraph 1, the phrase "on international economic security" should read "in that respect".

6. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.14, said that the Committee had been considering the subject for some time and many debates had been held on it, which had been useful for all members of the Committee. The Soviet Union believed that it was possible and appropriate at the current session to review the work that had been done. From the theoretical point of view, the main point was that efforts had been made to take greater account of the fact that under current conditions international economic co-operation must be conceived of globally, as involving the participation of all countries, since that was the only effective way to resolve world problems including the problem of the development of developing countries. Also, the matter had particular relevance in the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, the outcome of which would depend on joint international efforts.

7. In his report on international economic security (A/44/217), the Secretary-General suggested focusing on specific questions and problems in international economic relations and development and trying to resolve them by taking pragmatic steps. He also enumerated a series of ways in which that could be done. His delegation hoped that those proposals would be supported by all countries and therefore it had considered it appropriate in its resolution to invite relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations and the United Nations system to consider the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General.

8. His delegation was ready to take into account the different opinions that had been expressed in the course of the consultations and hoped that the draft resolution would consequently be adopted by consensus.

Assistance to the Palestinian people

9. Mr. ARABIAT (Jordan) recalled that the report on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/44/637) prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) recounted in detail the assistance being given to the Palestinian people by the various United Nations organizations and agencies. Despite the undeniable value of all the aid provided, it was obvious that the international community could only help mitigate the sufferings of the Palestinian people but not to modify its situation radically. As long as the Israeli occupation continued, the Palestinian population would continue being victimized by the Israeli practices described in the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/44/277). Since the start of the occupation 22 years earlier, the Israelis had been applying economic pressures of all sorts in order to relegate the Palestinian population to a status of almost complete dependence, and that policy had intensified since the beginning of the intifadah.

10. The result of the intervention by the Israeli armed forces in the occupied Palestinian territory had been to paralyse the productive apparatus in most of the

(Mr. Arabiat, Jordan)

villages in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The agricultural and industrial sectors were in a state of stagnation, while the trade and service sectors had become less dynamic. The losses were estimated at more than \$300 million. The aim pursued by the occupation authorities through the practices they were applying was, quite obviously, to subordinate the Palestinian economy completely to Israeli needs.

11. The occupation authorities had resorted to the armed forces to enforce their tax system on the Palestinian population, while the Israeli settlers in the occupied territory were not subject to the payment of any tax. A clear example of the practices in question was the campaign undertaken by Israel against the villagers of Beit Sahur who had refused to pay the taxes decreed by the Israeli authorities. In an attempt to compel the local population to submit to their will, the Israelis had confiscated their goods and property and proceeded to sell them at auction, thus recovering the unpaid taxes.

12. The Israeli trade practices in the occupied Palestinian territory could not be considered in isolation because they were only one facet of the Israeli attitude towards the question of Palestine. As long as it was subjected to occupation, the Palestinian people would not be able to achieve development. Jordan, as it had done since 1967, would continue aiding the Palestinian people until the Israeli occupation was brought to an end and a just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine was reached.

13. Mr. CAHILL (United States of America) said that his delegation, like other delegations, had only just received the report entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people" (A/44/637), which contained 30 specific project proposals to be prepared by selected experts. In view of the length of the report and its late issuance, his delegation had no choice but to reserve its position on it.

14. It should, however, be noted that the wording of the report appeared to presuppose the existence of a Palestinian State without reference to a negotiated settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). The report thus acquired the character of a political statement rather than an economic document. That was doubly discouraging for the United States, which genuinely cared about the welfare of the people in the occupied territories and wanted to help them. In that connection, he wished to mention that over the years the United States had been the largest donor of bilateral aid to the occupied territories.

15. There had clearly not been an opportunity to examine the financial implications of the studies proposed. The 30 individual projects must be thoroughly reviewed in an objective, non-political manner to ensure that they met the real needs of the Palestinians and made the most efficient use of available resources.

16. Mr. ALMABROUK (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) expressed sympathy in connection with the recent earthquake in Algeria.

(Mr. Al Mabrouk, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

17. With regard to the report on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/44/637), it was clear that the international community's contribution did not reach the necessary levels, in view of the tragedy that the Palestinian people was experiencing. The only way to achieve a radical solution to the current situation was to recognize the right of the Palestinians to establish an independent State in Palestine, their homeland.

18. The United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Population Fund were making commendable efforts to provide shelter to the displaced Palestinians in the occupied territories. However, such work was merely a palliative, in view of the Israeli practice of demolishing homes. According to paragraph 60 of the report, it had been estimated that the value of houses destroyed in 1988 amounted to some \$6 million.

19. The expansion of the settlements on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip had resulted in over-exploitation of the water resources in those areas and consequent saline intrusion. The occupation authorities were unquestionably destroying the natural resources in the occupied territories, thus obliging the population to abandon them and to emigrate.

20. Lastly, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya trusted that the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system which provided assistance to the Palestinian people would be able to overcome the obstacles which were preventing them from carrying out their work fully.

21. Mr. HILLEL (Israel) said that the political problems of the Middle East were such a constant source of preoccupation for the political organs of the United Nations that they overshadowed the other major items on the agenda of the General Assembly. It was inappropriate for the Second Committee to address the Palestinian problem, because it was not in a position to submit constructive and realistic proposals. The problems raised in the Committee could be solved satisfactorily only in the context of a peace initiative, which the Government of Israel endeavoured to pursue.

22. The Palestinians should undoubtedly be protected, not from Israel, but first and foremost from those who, for so many years, had led them to sacrifice their most vital interests in return for politically motivated reports and resolutions, which hampered efforts to provide assistance to them and upgrade their living conditions. That was exemplified in the report on assistance to the Palestinian people prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), which unjustifiably attempted to invade areas of activity that were unrelated to its mandate and exceeded its competence, ability and financial resources.

23. As the Second Committee yearly repeated the same exercise on Palestinian-related subjects, Israel had no choice but to refer to some of the development projects in the territories under its administration. Recent

(Mr. Hillel, Israel)

developments in the territories had not weakened Israel's determination to pursue its policy aimed at improving the standard of living of the local Arab population in all its aspects.

24. While Israel was willing to contribute to the utmost to efforts to provide the required assistance, it was unable to meet the economic needs of the territories by itself, owing to its limited resources. He emphasized Israel's economic contribution, over and above the allocations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for assistance to the refugee population.

25. The Government of Israel had secured the participation and active co-operation of international voluntary organizations and United Nations agencies in projects that were designed to enhance economic and social development in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. He outlined briefly the measures that had been adopted by his country's Government to upgrade the standard of living of the inhabitants of those areas and compared the growth of the gross national product in Jordan, Syria and the territories occupied by Israel up to 1987. The popular uprising in those territories had brought about a change in the situation and only calm and order would make it possible to renew the drive for economic and social development in the territories.

26. The economic ties between the territories and Israel, on the one hand, and the Arab States, particularly Jordan, on the other, remained vital for the Arab residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza. It was a well-known fact that those areas had never been economically independent and that their residents had always had to seek employment and markets elsewhere. He explained the benefits of the transfer of technology from Israel for the agricultural revolution in the region and said that Israel had accepted the principle of direct exports from the territories to the European Community. An agreement to that effect had been concluded between Israel, the producers and the European Community defining the modalities for carrying out such exports.

27. The General Assembly should encourage Arab-Israeli co-operation, rather than continue to draft reports and adopt resolutions that served no real purpose. Moreover, owing to continued Arab pressure, United Nations organs competed with each other in submitting projects of assistance which faced severe financial constraints or received minimum funding. In that regard, the politically motivated exercises of Habitat designed to obtain funding for its housing projects were insignificant and superfluous.

28. There was no need to accumulate further studies on different aspects of development in the territories administered by Israel, which did not even serve the propaganda purposes for which they had originally been designed. Moreover, Israel was not unaware of the political objectives that they reflected, namely, the introduction, through the back door of the Second Committee, of aspects pertaining to the political future of the region, rather than to the economic future of its inhabitants.

(Mr. Hillel, Israel)

29. The essence of the problem related directly to the availability of resources. His country had repeatedly emphasized the need for additional resources to meet the growing requirements of the Palestinians and would fully co-operate in the implementation of projects designed to improve the material conditions of that population, if sufficient means were provided.

30. He emphasized that, under international law, Israel alone was responsible for the well-being of the population in the administered territories and noted that projects should therefore be co-ordinated with his country's competent authorities and not emanate from resolutions hostile to Israel. It was also essential that each participating agency should act within its mandate. He insisted that UNDP should remain the principal channel for the implementation of projects in the territories. In that connection, he repeated that no resolution or report which contained extraneous and provocative elements designed unilaterally to establish political facts which were unacceptable to the Government of Israel would benefit from his Government's co-operation.

31. Mr. ABU-KOASH (Observer for Palestine) commended the valuable work of Habitat and the efforts invested in the preparation of the Secretary-General's reports on assistance to the Palestinian people and the living conditions of the Palestinian people, and noted that the delay in distribution was not due to any fault on the part of Habitat.

32. There was no doubt that UNRWA was the leading agency in the provision of assistance to the population of Palestine and to Palestinians in host countries, particularly in Lebanon. He urged UNRWA to expand its refugee affairs officer programme, which provided some measure of protection to the population by monitoring the behaviour both of the Israeli occupation forces and of Israeli settlers in Palestine.

33. He noted the difficulties facing UNDP as a result of actions by the Israeli occupation authorities. UNDP had been given clearance in principle to implement certain development projects but the Israeli authorities had then prevented their implementation. UNDP had even considered the possibility of suspending its assistance programme as a mark of protest but had decided to attempt implementation once again following consultations with Palestine and the donor countries. It was to be hoped that the Second Committee would exercise its influence to facilitate the provision of assistance.

34. UNICEF and other competent United Nations bodies were urged to address the special needs of Palestinian children who had been psychologically and emotionally traumatized by Israeli crimes against them, their families and their neighbours. The eloquence of the representative of Israel could not wipe away the crimes committed by that country's occupation authorities.

35. Israel should not be paid any duties or fees on assistance items, nor should its authorities be used as intermediaries for the purchase, distribution or delivery of assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. It

(Mr. Abu-Koash, Observer, Palestine)

was particularly important that no Israeli firms, goods or machinery should be used in the process. External assistance was not and could not be a substitute for a just and legitimate settlement of the question of Palestine, which was why he rejected the concept of an improvement in the quality of life under permanent occupation.

36. The first report of Habitat included recommendations for the implementation of two projects to which Palestine attached special priority: (a) reconstruction of Palestinian houses demolished by the Israeli occupation authorities; and (b) solution of water problems in the Gaza Strip. It was impossible to overstate the need to provide adequate shelter to families which had suffered physically, emotionally and economically from the demolition of their homes. The Israeli occupation authorities controlled water resources and confiscated 80 per cent of the water supply each year. As a result of excessive pumping and the intrusion of sea water into the coastal aquifers, water salinity had reached a level which was twice the permissible international standard for drinking water, constituting a health hazard and causing damage in the agricultural sector. The Israeli occupation authorities had opposed the implementation of projects such as the construction of a cement plant and a hatchery on the grounds that they would harm Israeli economic interests in the occupied State of Palestine.

37. The second report of Habitat included consideration of infrastructure needs and recommended the establishment of a seaport in Gaza, modernization and expansion of the Palestinian airport at Qalandia, near Jerusalem, and the construction of a highway passing through a neutral demilitarized zone in Israeli-controlled territory, as well as the restoration of the link between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which became separated as a result of the creation of Israel in Palestine in 1948.

38. He urged support for a draft resolution on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in which the Secretary-General would be requested, inter alia, to make available to UNCTAD the extra funds required for the preparation of a multi-sectoral study on the Palestinian national economy, which should have a considerable impact in shaping the future living conditions of the Palestinian people and their national economy.

39. One example of Israel's severely repressive measures was the recent siege imposed against the Palestinian camp of Beit Sahur and the confiscation of the personal property of residents, including furniture and household equipment.

40. The General Assembly had been obliged, in 1988, to continue its session at Geneva as a result of the United States' refusal to grant a visa to the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization for his travel to New York. Both Israel and the United States wished to impose unacceptable conditions on Palestine, such as the choice of who was to negotiate on its behalf. If the United States had not provided material and moral support to Israel, that country would certainly not have carried its intransigence so far.

(Mr. Abu-Koash, Observer, Palestine)

41. Palestine believed in peace and was prepared to engage in constructive negotiations which might lead to a genuine solution of the question of Palestine and of the Arab-Israeli conflict in general. However, Israel turned down all such proposals, thus closing the way to negotiation.

42. He was pleased to note that Namibia would finally soon be attaining its independence and trusted that Palestine would follow the example of countries which had won their independence. Among those was the United States, which had also freed itself from occupation.

43. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded the general debate on the item concerning assistance to the Palestinian people.

AGENDA ITEM 88: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(a) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.17

44. Mr. NGREGAI (Central African Republic), speaking on behalf of all the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.17, entitled "Special economic assistance to Chad", said that, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his report (A/44/418), the effects of war and natural disasters had compromised the reconstruction efforts of the Government of Chad. That country had initiated a system of round tables to carry out activities complementary to the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries. The special programme of assistance initiated by the General Assembly was linked to that system with a view to mobilizing and co-ordinating assistance from donors.

45. The draft resolution before the Committee did not differ from the General Assembly resolutions relating to special assistance to Chad except that it was oriented towards current and future activities. It was a straightforward draft, the goal of which was to ensure the continuation of acts of solidarity among countries with the support of the international community. The sponsors hoped that the Second Committee would give it unanimous support and adopt it by consensus. Japan and Chile had joined the list of sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.18

46. Mr. AL-GHAMDI (Saudi Arabia), on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.18, entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti". The draft resolution described the damage suffered by Djibouti as a result of torrential rain and floods in April 1989 and the consequences of those disasters for the economy of the country and called for the drawing up of a programme of rehabilitation and reconstruction based on an evaluation of requirements.

47. Mr. GATHUNGU (Kenya) said that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had been included among the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.19 as the result of a technical error. After referring to General Assembly resolution 43/206 on emergency assistance to Somalia, on behalf of the African States, he invited the Committee to adopt the draft resolution.

48. Mr. ASSEM IBRAHIM (Egypt), on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/44/L.20, said that the Federal Republic of Germany, Brazil and Japan had joined the list of sponsors and requested that the draft resolution be adopted. He expressed his condolences to the representative of Algeria in connection with the damage caused by the recent earthquake in that country and asked that they be conveyed to the people and Government of Algeria.

(b) INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST THE LOCUST AND GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA (continued)

49. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) said that the serious nature of the exceptional reproductive cycle of locusts and grasshoppers which had started in 1986 had acquired the dimensions of a catastrophe in Africa. The combination of national efforts together with regional and international co-operation, such as the fruitful co-operation between the countries of the Maghreb, and the intervention of FAO, had limited the dimensions of the disaster but the dangers of repetition could not be overlooked. Consequently Mauritania was launching large-scale operations in the international areas of locust and grasshopper reproduction. He welcomed the creation by the General Assembly in 1988 of the International Desert Locust Task Force under the technical and operational responsibility of FAO and the inclusion of locust and grasshopper infestations among disasters to be fought within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to be proclaimed during the current session of the General Assembly.

50. Currently grasshopper populations were present in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Gambia, Senegal, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania. To prevent them developing into infestations, FAO must receive more effective and better co-ordinated support from the United Nations system in terms of both the fight against infestations and the search for new techniques and new pesticides. Collaboration between UNDP and FAO would facilitate the establishment of a long-term research framework designed to prepare innovative and ecologically more acceptable strategies.

51. For all those reasons, he recommended that the Committee adopt the draft decision which he had introduced.

52. The CHAIRMAN announced that the representative of Morocco had requested postponement of the deadline which had expired the previous day at 1 p.m., in order to submit a draft resolution under agenda item 12 (k). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee was prepared to allow the draft resolution.

53. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 87: TRAINING AND RESEARCH: UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH (A/44/361, A/44/611)

54. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (A/44/611), which had been prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 43/201 of 20 December 1988.

55. Mr. AHMED (Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General, said that it had been prepared on the basis of extensive consultations with several other offices and departments within the Secretariat and UNITAR. In reading it, it should be borne in mind that it had not been possible to establish a reserve fund for the Institute for reasons connected with the purchase of the land occupied by the UNITAR building and accordingly all the parameters governing the future activities of the Institute were not yet fully known. The first part of the report dealt with the measures taken to restructure UNITAR in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 42/197 and 43/201. Particular attention was devoted to the training programme of the Institute and it was worth noting that training projects funded through special purpose grants continued to attract considerable support from donor countries. In that connection, the Secretary-General drew the attention of the General Assembly to a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees requesting him "to take the necessary action with a view to obtaining as soon as possible a decision by the General Assembly authorizing the Institute to act as an executing agency of UNDP". The General Assembly would also have to act on the proposals of the Secretary-General relating to the appointment of full-time senior fellows and, if the Assembly concurred with those proposals, the relevant sections of the Statute of UNITAR would have to be amended, as spelled out in annex II to the report.

56. With regard to the sale of the UNITAR headquarters building, the report described the final stages of that transaction. Measures had already been taken to solicit expressions of interest in the purchase of the entire property.

57. In connection with the financial situation, the Board of Trustees had endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the effect that UNITAR budget presentations should be brought more into line with United Nations practices. Those recommendations would be taken into account in future annual budgetary proposals submitted to the Committee. Details were provided regarding the budget of the Institute, comparing 1989 with 1988, and reference was made to the overall debt of UNITAR to the United Nations.

58. The last substantive question arising from resolution 43/201 was that it encouraged the Secretary-General to achieve greater interfacing among United Nations autonomous research bodies. The Secretary-General had therefore continued consultations regarding the exchange of information and experience among United Nations research institutes with a view to enhancing their co-operation in programme planning and ensuring greater complementarity in their work.

(Mr. Ahmed)

59. In conclusion, he referred to the still unsettled financial situation of the Institute. The reserve fund to be established following the sale of the entire UNITAR headquarters property would restore its financial situation to health and it would then be in a better position to withstand the vicissitudes resulting from changing levels of government contributions. The long-term viability of the Institute would, however, depend on the support it received from Governments so that the projected reserved fund should not be construed as a substitute for the voluntary contributions of Governments. It was a matter of the utmost urgency that the declining level of government financial contributions should be reversed.

60. Mr. DOO KINGUE (United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)) said that in his speech he would attempt to make up for the lack of a written report to the General Assembly, which he submitted every two years. The programme in progress, which benefited all Member States, had been well received and would not be changed. Since 1 October 1989, UNITAR had had a new Director of Training, specialized in international law, training methods, economics and management. He had written to all the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) informing them of the training and research activities for the developing countries which UNITAR had planned for 1990-1991 and had requested them to consult the Governments of their countries of assignment to ensure that the 1990-1991 work programme responded as closely as possible to the desires of the developing countries. The permanent missions of the developing countries had been informed of that step. As the Board of Trustees of UNITAR would consider in April 1990 the Institute's 1990-1991 work programme, the discussion on UNITAR in the Second Committee would provide all Governments with the opportunity to propose new programmes for those two years, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 42/197.

61. In the area of development organization and management, UNITAR had introduced various innovative programmes in co-operation with other United Nations bodies: a UNITAR/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) programme for the management of natural resources and the environment; a UNITAR/UNEP/International Maritime Organization (IMO) training programme in oil-spill containment, with the support of oil companies; a comprehensive programme for debt management in consultation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and regional development banks; and a UNITAR/Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) training programme in disaster relief planning and management in Africa. Other training activities were being considered.

62. In conformity with General Assembly resolution 42/197 on restructuring UNITAR, he had written to the permanent missions of the developed countries which contributed funds to the United Nations bodies for their activities in favour of the developing countries, requesting them to inform him of the projects for which their Governments could provide financial support in 1990-1991. UNITAR had published in 1988-1989 a number of books of interest to the international community, the titles of which could be found in the list of publications contained in the UNITAR Newsletter, the first issue of which had appeared in June 1989. All

(Mr. Doo Kingue)

copies in English and French of the second issue would be available before the end of the coming week. In addition to information on books, the Newsletter also contained useful information on the Institute's activities.

63. He would like UNITAR to become an executing agency of UNDP. UNITAR currently functioned as a sub-contractor of the UNDP Office for Projects Services, which entailed advancing between 20 per cent and 50 per cent of the cost of a UNDP-financed project implemented by UNITAR. That amount would not be reimbursed until the project had been completed. If UNITAR was to act as an executing agency of UNDP, it would not have to spend its own financial resources, and the granting of the status of UNDP executing agency would eliminate the difficulties facing projects within its competence, since funding would be provided by UNDP or other sources of financing associated with it, such as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

64. A proposal had been made to resume, starting in July 1990, the annual meetings of the directors of United Nations institutes for training, research and planning, which were chaired by the Executive Director of UNITAR; those meetings had been suspended temporarily because of uncertainty about the Institute's future. He was confident that the meeting in 1990 would give new impetus to co-ordinating the activities promoted therein. If the general opinion was that that type of meeting should be changed, he would inform the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) at its 1990 autumn session, which met in New York in October.

65. Since 1982, the financial situation of the Institute had been a matter of concern to the General Assembly, which in resolution 37/142 had requested the Secretary-General to report on possibilities for placing UNITAR's financing on a more predictable, assured and continuous basis. He was pleased that under resolution 42/197, adopted in 1987, the General Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General to acquire the land on which UNITAR headquarters stood and to sell the entire property with a view to repaying the Institute's debt to the United Nations and setting up a reserve fund for the Institute. In view of the measures already adopted, it was to be hoped that the reserve fund would be established in the first half of 1990. A dozen Governments were interested in purchasing the headquarters property, which would be sold at auction. Their bids should be received by the United Nations not later than noon, 30 January 1990.

66. Over the past six years, the number of countries contributing to the UNITAR General Fund had declined, from an average of 48 or 49 countries between 1983 and 1987 to 33 countries in 1988. A large number of developed countries were among those that had stopped contributing. He called upon all Governments, in particular those that had never contributed to the UNITAR budget and those that had stopped doing so because they did not believe that the Institute would survive, to provide UNITAR with sufficient financial resources to preclude the need to resort to the reserve fund. The Institute's financial difficulties must be resolved once and for all. In 1988 and 1989, UNITAR had operated on a very tight budget, and that would probably also be the case in 1990. Continued functioning had been made possible solely through major sacrifices on the part of UNITAR personnel. Working conditions

(Mr. Doo Kingue)

had deteriorated in recent years, and the work-load had increased because of staff reduction. UNITAR would celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary in spring 1990. In March 1990, a special issue of the UNITAR Newsletter would be put out with all the relevant facts. It would be desirable for Governments to give the Institute a fresh injection of financial resources to ensure its continuation: not large amounts but relatively modest contributions from each Government. It was to be hoped that the 1990s would be considered the decade of the Institute's revival.

67. Mr. KIURU (Finland) said that his delegation welcomed the efforts by the Secretary-General to explore new modalities for greater interfacing among the United Nations autonomous research entities. The research carried out by those bodies should take into account the needs and objectives of the Organization and should contribute effectively to their implementation.

68. With regard to the opinions expressed by the Secretary-General in his report on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (A/44/611), there was scope for improving the informal information exchange network among the autonomous research entities of the United Nations. His delegation shared the view that the work of a research institute should focus more on the activities carried out within the machinery of ACC, that it was appropriate to consider an institutional mechanism with a view to enhancing co-operation among research institutes, and that the Executive Director of the Institute should organize a meeting to that end.

69. Utmost care should be exercised with regard to the establishment of new research institutions; rather, new research tasks should be allocated to the existing institutions in a co-ordinated manner. The financial viability of the institutions was an indispensable pre-condition for their ability to make significant contributions to the solution of global problems and to the strengthening of the United Nations.

70. Mr. EMENYI (Nigeria) said that with respect to the implementation of the key provisions of General Assembly resolution 43/201, adopted as part of the effort to provide a sound administrative and financial basis for the operations of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), it was first of all encouraging that the Institute had been able to comply with one of those provisions by submitting its 1989 budget proposals to ACABQ before presenting them to its Board of Trustees. Secondly, it was a matter of concern that the Institute headquarters building had not been sold during the current year, thus delaying the establishment of the reserve fund envisaged in General Assembly resolutions 42/197 and 43/201. He hoped that the transaction would be completed as soon as possible so as to ensure the Institute's financial viability. Lastly, he welcomed the formulation of criteria for the appointment of senior fellows who would provide services to the Institute free of charge.

71. His country, which had established a \$1 million trust fund for UNITAR, remained deeply concerned that the Institute had not yet found a predictable and

(Mr. Emenyi, Nigeria)

continuous flow of resources to finance its operations. Member States should bear in mind that the proposed reserve fund was not and could not be a substitute for voluntary contributions; they must therefore continue to provide UNITAR with assistance.

72. Mr. MINAGAWA (Japan) said that his delegation shared the views expressed in the Secretary-General's report on UNITAR, above all with respect to the restructuring of the Institute and the financial issues. His country particularly appreciated the assistance UNITAR had provided to developing countries through its traditional training activities. While it stood ready to offer its continued support, his country was concerned that the Institute had lost much of the valuable support of the major donor countries. In order to ensure its long-term viability and to reach a clearer understanding of its raison d'être, UNITAR had to carry out a reorganization and to do everything possible to remedy a financial situation in which expenditures exceeded income.

73. His delegation appreciated the Secretary-General's efforts with regard to the sale of the headquarters building and fully supported his view that the real estate transactions should be completed as soon as possible. Nevertheless, unless UNITAR succeeded in ensuring sound and effective management of its activities, the sale of the building alone would not be the answer to the fundamental restructuring issue. As stated in the Secretary-General's report, the financial situation of the Institute continued to be a matter of serious concern and, if left unresolved, the very reason for the Institute's existence would be open to question.

74. Mr. KONN (Cameroon) said that the role played by UNITAR was without equal and that its special features were reflected in various ways. First, it was the only institute that had been able, owing to the nature of its mandate, to take full advantage of the opportunities for increasing the effectiveness of international co-operation, maintaining peace and security and promoting economic and social development. Secondly, as distinct from the other United Nations institutes, UNITAR did not concentrate exclusively on research into peace, security and development but rather ensured the practical application of those concepts through studies aimed at finding solutions to real problems facing the international community. Thirdly, UNITAR had focused on activities having a direct impact on developing countries. To do so, it had laid stress on article 2 of its constituent instrument, under which it was authorized to provide various levels of training to individuals from those countries. Those individuals would, in turn, provide their services by working in the United Nations or its specialized agencies in their own national administrations in co-operation with the United Nations, the specialized agencies or other institutions carrying out activities in related spheres.

75. Those brief remarks had been necessary because he had detected some complacency on the part of various Member States with regard to their interpretation of the Institute's actual operations and scope. It was his opinion that those who hastened to call into question the Institute's mandate or who continued to hold inaccurate ideas about its effectiveness or usefulness were in fact unaware of its achievements or did not appreciate its positive impact.

(Mr. Konn. Cameroon)

76. His delegation believed that the Institute's mandate was clear and that its training and research activities were of vital importance not only for the developing countries but also for the entire United Nations system. It was evident that the new approach resulting from the activities that had been undertaken to revitalize the Institute would bring about greater efficiency in programme implementation and management.

77. The point was not to question whether the UNITAR programmes had contributed to the agreed goals but to study carefully ways of improving those programmes in order to adapt or adjust some of them to constantly changing political, economic and social realities. According to the Secretary-General's report on UNITAR, the Executive Director and the Board of Trustees were determined that the UNITAR programmes should place adequate emphasis on the most pressing problems linked to the concerns and interests of the Member States and the international community. His delegation endorsed the Institute's decision to orient its policies towards the strengthening of training centres in developing countries and the promotion of technical co-operation among those countries in the field of training. In addition, it supported the Institute's conversion to an executing agency.

78. With regard to the current situation, his delegation hoped for the earliest possible completion of the acquisition of the land and the sale of the Institute in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/201. Proceeds from that transaction would enable UNITAR to decrease its debt and to establish a reserve fund, thus creating a more predictable financial base for its activities. In that connection, he wished to commend the Government of Nigeria for its contribution of 1 million dollars to launch the reserve fund. By all indications, the future of UNITAR was linked inseparably to the manner in which comprehensive solutions were found to the problem of inadequate or non-existent financial resources, a problem which would not have developed if all countries, the developed countries in particular, had met their commitments.

79. The basic question was whether there existed the political will to maintain UNITAR. The developing countries, who were the first victims of the current international economic crisis, had not hesitated to provide a significant part of their modest resources to the Institute. That support demonstrated confidence in the Institute, and an interest in respecting its norms and, above all, preserving its validity and effectiveness. It was now up to the major contributors to demonstrate through action their confidence in UNITAR by promoting its activities in accordance with consensus adopted by the Member States.

80. His delegation considered that the principle of voluntary contributions, motivated by real political will on the part of States, could promote the cause of development. The only practical method to resolve once and for all the difficulties endemic in UNITAR was to ask the Secretary-General to designate as his special representative an eminent person who would visit certain donor countries that had ceased providing assistance to UNITAR and attempt to convince the high-level authorities in those countries to resume their assistance to UNITAR.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.