



Economic and Social Council

Provisional

30 July 2013

English

Original: French

Substantive session of 2013

General segment

Provisional summary record of the 46th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 24 July 2013 at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Sajdik (Vice-President (Austria)

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

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

Advancement of women (*continued*)

Decision on a draft resolution

The President called on the Council to take action on a draft resolution entitled “Future organization and methods of the Commission on the Status of Women”, contained in document E/2013/27 (chap. I, sect. B).

The draft resolution was adopted.

Action on a draft decision

The President called on the Council to take action on a draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-seventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-eighth session of the Commission” contained in document E/2013/27 (chap. I, sect. C).

The draft decision was adopted.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 14 (a).

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

Women and development (*continued*)

Decision on a draft resolution

The President called on the Council to take action on a draft resolution entitled “Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women” contained in document E/2013/27 (chap. I, sect. B). He noted that the draft had been adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women by a recorded vote of 25 votes to 2 with 10 abstentions, and that a new recorded vote had been requested.

A roll-call vote was taken.

Bolivia, having been drawn by lot by the President, voted first.

In favour:

Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Turkey.

Against:

Canada, United States of America.

Abstentions:

Austria, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

The draft resolution was adopted by 23 votes to 2, with 16 abstentions.

Mr. Cruz (Nicaragua) and **Mr. Bougacha** (Tunisia) asked that their respective States be added to the list of States that had voted in favour of adopting the draft resolution.

Mr. Zuhairi (Observer for the State of Palestine) welcomed the progress made in a number of countries regarding women's empowerment and the exercise of their rights. The situation of Palestinian women is unfortunately not a matter for rejoicing, mainly due to the grip in which they are held by Israel, which continues to violate the human rights of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Caspi (Observer for Israel) said that Israel strongly opposes the resolution adopted by the Council, which does not serve the cause of Palestinian women and totally ignores the real reasons for their suffering. That suffering, he said, is compounded by a domestic situation and by problems for which Israel is not responsible. For its part, Israel is contributing to the promotion of equality between men and women and the emancipation of women.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (a).

Preparatory process for the comprehensive 10-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action

Mr. Acharya (High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States) said that there are 31 landlocked developing countries, half of which are also least developed countries (LDCs) and many of which are also low-income countries. Their common points are generally remoteness from major international markets, inadequate transport infrastructure, restrictive customs and border crossing procedures, and high transport and commercial exchange costs. Their transportation costs as a proportion of the total value of their exports and imports are on average 45 per cent higher than those of transit developing countries, and their trade, which involves mainly fuels and minerals, is restricted to a small number of countries. During the decade under review, landlocked and transit developing countries did however make some progress towards the elimination of physical and other barriers to trade. For many landlocked developing countries, official development assistance remains the main source of external financing. Direct foreign investment has also helped to develop their transports, telecommunications and public utilities. Despite that progress, landlocked developing countries have not yet realized their full trade potential. Transport infrastructure remains inadequate and great effort needs to be made to increase efficiency in the areas of logistics and trade facilitation. The lack of export diversification, non-existent added value, limited production capacity and the absence of links to globalized value chains continue to hinder economic growth. The preparatory process for the comprehensive 10-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action is taking place primarily at three levels, namely the intergovernmental level, the level of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group and the level of private enterprise. Its goal is a new framework for comprehensive partnership, based on objectives and designed for a broader vision of sustainable development and economic growth for landlocked developing countries over the coming decade.

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

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Ms. Djacta (United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)) said that more than 50 per cent of the world's inhabitants live in cities, and that by 2050 that proportion is expected to exceed 70 per cent. Urbanization is moving fastest in developing countries, which are the ones where infrastructure is often inadequate and municipalities fail to meet the needs of rapidly growing urban populations. Hence, the challenges of reducing urban poverty, and of development in general, are immense: unemployment, precarious living conditions in slums, rapid expansion of many cities without adequate town planning, and increasing vulnerability to natural or man-made disasters among poor city-dwellers.

At its twenty-fourth session, the UN-Habitat Governing Council adopted 15 important resolutions (A/68/8), beginning with resolution 24/15 on the UN-Habitat strategic plan for 2014-2019, which sets out its major priorities: urban regulations, town planning, urban economy and basic services in cities. The first three priorities may be considered the levers of urban transformation, while the fourth reflects the immense challenges posed by access to basic services for the poor in the cities of developing countries. Also among the resolutions adopted was resolution 24/14 on inputs and support for the preparatory process of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III).

The report of the Secretary-General on coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2013/68) contains five recommendations calling on member States to support the preparations for Habitat III, to start the preparation of national reports for the Habitat III preparatory process, to give appropriate consideration, in their contributions to the United Nations post-2015 development agenda, to the role of sustainable urbanization and of cities and local authorities in sustainable development, to allocate appropriate financial and human resources for slum upgrading and prevention and establish financing strategies that mobilize public subsidies and income generated by land regularization and land reallocation processes, and to initiate processes to develop or strengthen national urban policies as a key strategy for national socioeconomic development.

Mr. Dusík (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) presented the Report of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (A/68/25). Recalling that, following the Rio+20 Conference, the General Assembly had adopted the final document entitled "The future we want" (annex to resolution 66/288), he noted that the first universal session of the UNEP Governing Council had been held in February 2013. It was attended by 146 member States, as well as many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations entities, and held discussions on the theme "Rio+20: from outcome to implementation". The ministerial consultations reaffirmed the need for greater and more reliable funding sources in order to implement paragraph 88 of the Final Document of the

Conference and General Assembly resolutions 66/288 and 67/203, in keeping with the three dimensions of sustainable development. This first universal session resulted in the adoption of 14 decisions (A/68/25), including one pertaining to the implementation of the document “The future we want”, which in particular calls for the name of the Governing Council to be changed to “United Nations Environment Assembly” and for UNEP regional representation to be enhanced in order to help countries implement their national environment programmes. A decision was also adopted on the theme of sustainable consumption and production.

The President recalled that the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in tax matters (E/2013/67) had been submitted in May 2013 in New York by Ms. Akhtar, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Mr. Kervella (Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)), presented the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (E/2013/51). That four-part report deals in particular with the implementation of Council resolution 2011/25 and with the publications requested, namely the seventeenth revised edition of *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* and amendments to the *Manual of Tests and Criteria* and the fourth revised edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals*. The *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods*, published for the first time in 1956, are updated regularly and are increasingly used worldwide in national regulations. The *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals*, adopted in 2000, is beginning to spread worldwide since its adoption by the European Union in 2008. The third part of the report focuses on the work of the Committee of Experts during the 2011-2012 period and on the recommendations of its subcommittees and the amendments adopted, while the fourth part comprises a work plan and meeting schedule for the 2013-2014 biennium. The Council was invited to vote on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 1 of the report (E/2013/51), which had been submitted for adoption.

General discussion

Mr. Simati (Observer for Tuvalu), speaking to draft resolution E/2013/L.19, said that his Government considered the withdrawal of Tuvalu from the list of LDCs premature. He thanked the Council for proposing to defer consideration of that issue to its substantive session of 2015. As a small island developing State, Tuvalu faces not only serious economic difficulties, but also enormous environmental challenges: rising sea levels, climate change, reduction of arable land and soil erosion. Thanks to the support of its development partners, Tuvalu is doing its level best to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and prepare for post-2015.

Mr. Piminov (Russian Federation) said that his country is in favour of greater international cooperation to achieve the objectives of sustainable development based on coordinated implementation of the relevant agreements. The Russian Federation welcomes the endeavours of UNEP, whose international mandate contributes to the implementation of specific environmental programmes to enhance various countries' potential, and whose work on sustainable consumption and production it supports. Russia attaches great importance to the April 2013 agreement on partnership between UNEP and the Russian Federation and to realization of the “Arctic 2020” programme; it sees much utility in the work the Tenth United Nations Forum on Forests and of the latest session of UN-Habitat, focusing on issues of sustainable

urbanization. Finally, the Russian Federation considers that agreements in the field of population should reflect cultural diversity and respect national priorities.

Mr. Pytalev (Belarus) said that his country would like to see more progress in the implementation of decisions taken in the context of the Rio+20 Conference, in particular with regard to the development of sustainable development indicators that reflect the interests of middle-income countries. He welcomed the adoption by consensus of the resolution entitled “The Evolution of Migration: Demographic Aspects”. Belarus, which had actively participated in the work of the Commission on Population and Development, was successfully implementing a demographic programme for 2011-2015 that aimed to stimulate the birth rate, increase life expectancy and reduce mortality among people of working age in order to stabilize the country’s population at 9,440,000 by 2015.

Mr. Zambrana (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that his country was committed to the path of change and was adopting an innovative development model that breaks with the neo-liberal model in order to live in harmony with nature. The Rio+20 Conference highlighted the importance of taking into account national perspectives and priorities in order to achieve sustainable development, and Bolivia considers that the concept of a green economy, which suggests that infinite economic growth and ecology are compatible, is not the way to go. Bolivia calls for an approach to sustainable forest management that is based not on market forces but on financing and technology transfer. To that end, the developed countries should free up additional funds without requiring the privatization of forests or imposing any conditions, while recognizing their responsibility for climate change.

Mr. Liu Yuyin (China) said that his country attached great importance to sustainable development and was aiming to develop an ecology-minded civilization through a pragmatic approach, which unfortunately still faced great obstacles. Developed countries should help developing countries better manage the growth of urban centres, which is related to population growth and rural depopulation, in a spirit of cooperation and sharing of experiences. China supports the idea of making 31 October World Cities Day and urges the international community to improve the sustainable management of forests.

Mr. Quintalla Román (Cuba) said that his country supported the statement made by the representative of Tuvalu, and he welcomed the Commission’s proposal to delay Tuvalu’s removal from the LDC category in 2015. Regarding the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, Cuba considers that the proposed programme should reflect the decisions of the General Assembly, to facilitate decision-making between States on the issues dealt with in the document.

Mr. Toro Carreño (Observer for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) reaffirmed the importance of resolution 24/7 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme — “Making slums history: a worldwide challenge”, adopted in April 2013. He said that that issue was one of the priorities of the Venezuelan Government and its housing programme (*Gran Misión Vivienda Venezuela*). He reaffirmed his country’s commitment to a green economy in the context of eco-socialism based on the harmonious relationship between human beings and their environment, citing the *Misión Arbol* programme and the new law on forests and forest management adopted in July 2013. He also reaffirmed his country’s unshakeable commitment to the peaceful political settlement of disputes and the non-use of force or threats, like other members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which had met for their sixth summit. Venezuela regrets the increasing

tendency of the Security Council to impose sanctions in situations that do not constitute threats to international peace and security.

Mr. Demiralp (Turkey) said that his country considered forests and sustainable forest management to be a priority. The United Nations Forum on Forests, held in April 2013 in Istanbul, encouraged Member States of the Organization to mainstream forests in debates on the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and post-2015 development programmes and priorities. Turkey, which supports this initiative, said it should include specific goals in the areas of reforestation, deforestation and the fight against forest degradation. It also attaches great importance to the creation of a new global forests partnership and to the opening of new avenues for technical and financial cooperation, and welcomes the establishment of a new global fund for voluntary pro-forest contributions.

Ms. Nduma (Observer for Kenya) said that sustainable development brings with it many challenges for developing countries like hers which, while it does hope to receive help in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, will also take the measures necessary to achieve them. As regards the issue of slum upgrading, Kenya still has a long way to go and needs support in implementing the provisions of the 2010 Constitution, which provide the framework for the governance and management of urban areas and cities, to limit rural depopulation. Finally, Kenya would like to see the implementation of the provisions relating to UNEP set out in paragraph 88 of the Final Document of the Rio+20 Conference.

Mr. Favero (Brazil) said that his country supports the integration by the Council of the three pillars — economic, social and environmental — each of which must take its rightful place according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities of countries. Like other delegations, the Brazilian delegation noted that Council debates tend to systematically put forward the importance of peace and security for development. It is nevertheless important to note that some aspects of development are prerequisites for peace and security. The first requirement is for sufficient funds to be made available under commitments made but not yet honoured, still in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, not to mention technology transfer.

Mr. Ho (China Energy Fund Committee) described how China, through proactive policies and Government subsidies, each year recycles some 500 million tons of organic plant matter and 1 billion tons of organic animal matter to feed digesters which, in 2011, generated 16 billion cubic metres of biogas, or 13 per cent of its domestic natural gas consumption. This biogas supplies about a third of China's rural population.

Mr. Nuic (Foundation for Ecological Development) said that hunger results not just from inadequate supply but from lack of access to productive resources. Basically, hunger is a problem that is linked to the planet's sustainable economic, social and environmental development. For that reason, smallholders' access to resources and markets must be at the heart of all efforts. First, sustainable agriculture initiatives for food security, especially those conducted on smallholdings, should be encouraged, and the work of the Committee on World Food Security supported accordingly. Second, the international community should set binding targets for sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition in the post-2015 development programme.

Ms. De Briones (International Federation of Associations for Social, Ecological and Cultural Help) said that to facilitate the transition to a sustainable future for the planet, Governments must overcome the resistance of selfish economic powers and act to foster a global economy focused on the well-being of the whole human community. In particular, they must take care to protect and restore aquatic and other ecosystems in order to reduce water pollution; to eliminate all subsidies to destructive modes of agriculture and fisheries and to the fossil fuel sector; and to take all requisite measures to prevent global economic crises.

Sustainable development

Decision on draft resolution E/2013/L.37

The President called on the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2013/L.37 entitled “Revised provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development”. He said that the project had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/2013/L.37 was adopted.

Decision on draft resolution E/2013/L.38

The President called on the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2013/L.38 entitled “Conclusion of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development”. He said that the project had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/2013/L.38 was adopted.

Decision on draft resolution E/2013/L.19

The President called on the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2013/L.19 entitled “Report of the Committee for Development Policy”, drawn up on the basis of informal consultations. He said that the project had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/2013/L.19 was adopted.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (a).

Statistics

Action on draft decisions

The President called on the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics” contained in document E/2013/24.

The draft decision was adopted.

The President called on the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-fourth session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fifth session of the Commission” contained in document E/2013/24.

The draft decision was adopted.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (c).

Human settlements

Decisions on draft resolutions E/2013/L.11 and E/2013/L.36

The President called on the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2013/L.36 entitled “Human settlements”, drawn up following informal consultations held on draft resolution E/2013/L.11, submitted by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He said that the project had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/2013/L.36 was adopted.

Ms. Jacome (Ecuador) reiterated the offer made by the Government of Ecuador to host the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016 in Quito. Her proposal was supported by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities (UCCI).

The President asked whether, given the adoption of draft resolution E/2013/L.36, he could assume that draft resolution E/2013/L.11 was withdrawn by its authors.

Draft resolution E/2013/L.11 was withdrawn.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (d).

Environment

The President said that, in the absence of any draft proposal under this agenda item, he wished to propose that the Council take note of the report entitled “Report of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum” on its first universal session, contained in document A/68/25.

It was so decided.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (e).

Population and development

Action on a draft decision

The President called on the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-sixth session and provisional agenda for its forty-seventh session”, contained in document E/2013/25.

The draft resolution was adopted.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (f).

Public administration and development

Decision on draft resolution E/2013/L.27

The President called on the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2013/L.27, entitled “Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twelfth session”, drawn up following informal consultations. He said that the project had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/2013/L.27 was adopted.

Decision on draft resolution E/2013/L.29

The President called on the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2013/L.29, entitled “Venue, dates and provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration”, drawn up following informal consultations. He said that the project had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/2013/L.29 was adopted.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (g).

International cooperation in tax matters*Decision on draft resolutions E/2013/L.9 and E/2013/L.22*

Before calling on the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2011/L.22, entitled “Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters”, drawn up following informal consultations on draft resolution E/2013/L.9 submitted by Fiji, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, **the President** gave the floor to the Secretary of the Council for an oral statement on the project’s programme budget implications.

Ms. Sharma (Secretary of the Council), stated, in accordance with article 31 of the Council’s Rules of Procedure, that the Council’s annual special one-day meeting, as called for in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution E/2011/L.22, would consist of two sessions, with interpretation being provided in all six official languages. The meeting would entail an additional annual expenditure of \$21,900 from 2014 forward. Adoption of the draft resolution by the Council would therefore entail an additional expenditure of \$43,800 under Chapter 2 (General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management) for the 2014-2015 biennium. No effort would be spared, however, to cover the additional costs out of available resources.

Draft resolution E/2013/L.22 was adopted.

The President asked whether, given the adoption of draft resolution E/2013/L.22, he could assume that draft resolution E/2013/L.9 was withdrawn by its authors.

Draft resolution E/2013/L.9 was withdrawn.

Decision on draft resolution E/2013/L.39

The President called on the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2013/L.39 entitled “Dates and draft agenda for the ninth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters”. He said that the project had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/2013/L.39 was adopted.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (h).

United Nations Forum on Forests*Action on a draft decision*

The President called on the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its tenth session and provisional agenda for its eleventh session,” contained in document E/2013/42 (chap. I).

The draft resolution was adopted.

Decision on draft resolution E/2013/L.35

The President called on the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2013/L.35 entitled “Dates and venue for the eleventh session of the Forum”. He said that the project had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/2013/L.35 was adopted.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (i).

Assistance to third States affected by sanctions

The President noted that no documents had been submitted under this agenda item and that the Council had not received any draft proposal in that regard.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (j).

Mapping

The President said that in the absence of any draft proposal under this agenda item, he wished to propose that the Council take note of the report of the nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, published as document E/CONF.102/8.

It was so decided.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (k).

Transport of dangerous goods

The President said that in the absence of any draft proposal under this agenda item, he wished to propose that the Council take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, published as document E/2013/51.

It was so decided.

The President advised that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (m).

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.