



Economic and Social Council

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Summary record of the 5th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 24 February 2021, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Akram. (Pakistan)

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

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/2021/L.10)

Draft decision E/2021/L.10: Procedure for taking decisions of the sessional bodies and the subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic at the 2021 session of the Council

1. **The President** said that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications. In his letter dated 3 December 2020 to the Chairs of subsidiary bodies of the Council, an informal paper had been circulated to consider the implications of COVID-19-related limitations on in-person meetings for sessions of the Council's subsidiary bodies during its 2021 session, in preparation for their respective sessions in 2021. The present draft decision was now being submitted in his capacity as President of the Council, following consultations with the Bureau. It was his understanding that, in reaching a decision on the practicability of holding in-person meetings of a subsidiary organ, the presiding officer should consult with Member States or the elected members of the subsidiary organ concerned. He took it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision E/2021/L.10.

2. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 4: Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (continued)

3. **The President** said that the elections were being held in accordance with the Council's relevant rules of procedure on elections and voting, namely rules 63, 68, 69 and 70.

Committee for Programme and Coordination

4. **The President** invited the Council to fill an outstanding vacancy from the Asia-Pacific States on the Committee for Programme and Coordination. He took it that the Council wished to nominate the Philippines, by acclamation, for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2022.

5. *It was so decided.*

Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

6. **The President** said that he wished to draw the Council's attention to General Assembly resolution 75/162 of 16 December 2020, in which the Assembly had decided to enlarge the membership of the Executive

Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 106 to 107 States and had requested the Council to elect the additional member. Accordingly, he invited the Council to elect the candidate to fill the additional seat. He took it that the Council wished to elect Malawi to the Committee by acclamation.

7. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

8. **The President** invited the Council to elect members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Regarding membership in the Executive Board of UN-Women, he wished to inform the Council that Belgium, Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland were resigning from their seats on the Executive Board with immediate effect. Luxembourg, Italy, Andorra and Denmark had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States to assume the respective vacated seats. He took it that the Council wished to elect Luxembourg and Italy by acclamation to the Executive Board of UN-Women, to complete the terms of Belgium and Canada, respectively, for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2021; and to elect Andorra and Denmark by acclamation to that body to complete the terms of New Zealand and Switzerland, respectively, for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2022.

9. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 17: Non-governmental organizations (continued) (E/2021/L.11)

Draft decision E/2021/L.11: Dates of the 2021 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

10. **The President** said that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications. In his letter dated 8 January 2021, the Chair of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had proposed revised dates for the Committee's regular and resumed sessions in the light of the continued restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and other difficulties. He took it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision E/2021/L.11.

11. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions

(g) Public administration and development (E/2021/L.12)

Draft decision E/2021/L.12: Dates of the twentieth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

12. **The President** said that, in his letter dated 2 February 2021, the Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration had proposed revised dates for the Committee's twentieth session in the light of the continued restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. He invited the Secretary to read out a statement of programme budget implications in connection with the draft decision.

13. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that the present statement was being made in accordance with rule 31 of the Council's rules of procedure. Under the terms of paragraph (b) of draft decision E/2021/L.12, the Council would decide to reschedule, on an exceptional basis, the holding of the twentieth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, which would be held from 12 to 21 April 2021, on the understanding that its conference service entitlement was applicable to the originally planned dates of 12 to 16 April 2021.

14. With regard to paragraph (b) of the draft decision, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration had conference service entitlements annually for five days comprising of 10 meetings, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Accordingly, interpretation services in the six official languages would be made available from 12 to 16 April 2021 for the originally planned dates of the twentieth session, in accordance with the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations as adopted by the General Assembly. The rescheduling of the twentieth session would extend the session beyond its entitlement of conference services; therefore, interpretation services, if required for the additional meetings from 19 to 21 April 2021, would need to be funded by extrabudgetary resources. Furthermore, interpretation services for the additional dates could not be guaranteed, taking into consideration capacity constraints related to existing requirements of other planned meetings of intergovernmental bodies.

15. **The President** took it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision E/2021/L.12.

16. *It was so decided.*

(h) International cooperation in tax matters (E/2021/45/Add.1)

Draft decision: Venue, dates and provisional agenda of the twenty-second session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

17. **The President** said that the draft decision was contained in chapter IV of the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its twenty-first session (E/2021/45/Add.1). He took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

18. *It was so decided.*

(i) Geospatial information (E/2021/46)

Draft decision: Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its tenth session and provisional agenda and dates of the eleventh session of the Committee

19. **The President** said that the draft decision was contained in chapter I of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its tenth session (E/2021/46). He took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

20. *It was so decided.*

21. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America), welcoming the adoption of the draft decision, said that his delegation recognized the crucial role that developing capacity and promoting innovation in the use of geospatial information could play in helping Member States to achieve their priorities with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals. He wished to take the opportunity of underscoring the importance of prioritizing the transparency and accountability of United Nations global geospatial information management facilities. The rules and measures for running such facilities must be consistent with established United Nations norms and standards for data management. His delegation appreciated the continued efforts of the Council and of all Member States to ensure robust oversight and effective management for those facilities.

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions
(continued)

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice
([E/2020/28/Add.1](#) and [E/2020/30](#))

(d) Narcotic drugs ([E/2020/28/Add.1](#) and [E/2020/30](#))

Draft decision I: Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

22. **The President** said that the draft decision was contained in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for action by the Council on its regular and reconvened twenty-ninth sessions ([E/2020/30](#)), and in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-third session ([E/2020/28/Add.1](#)). He took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

23. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision II: Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its regular and reconvened twenty-ninth sessions and provisional agenda for its thirtieth session

24. **The President** said that the draft decision was contained in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its regular and reconvened twenty-ninth sessions ([E/2020/30](#)). He took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

25. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision II: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-third session

26. **The President** said that the draft decision was contained in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-third session ([E/2020/28/Add.1](#)). He took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

27. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.