



General Assembly

Seventy-second session

74th plenary meeting
Wednesday, 20 December 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

Official Records

President: Mr. Lajčák (Slovakia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda items 123 and 124 (continued)

Strengthening of the United Nations system

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Draft resolution (A/72/L.33)

The President: We can all agree on one thing — we want the United Nations to be able to respond to the challenges of today in the best way possible. Peace has always been at the core of the Organization's work, but today we have different, more complex threats and challenges to peace. The signs that conflict is on the horizon can look different now to how they did in 1945. And, in many ways, they are harder to identify.

For example, the online recruitment of terrorist fighters is less visible than traditional conscription. Furthermore, it is easier to identify planes, tanks or troops moving across frontiers than it is to track splintering rebel groups. Different threats require different responses, which is logical. Likewise, we need new thinking and structures to solve old, persistent challenges. We cannot expect to achieve peace today without adjusting 70-year-old mechanisms and systems. We must observe and monitor. We must listen to experiences on the ground and, in doing so, we must adapt and evolve. Today's draft resolution A/72/L.33 is part of that process.

Today's draft resolution calls for a second comprehensive report on the United Nations peace and security pillar. I hope that it will be adopted by

consensus. And for that, first, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our facilitators, Ambassador Rugwabiza and Ambassador Mlynár, who had my full trust and support throughout this process. Secondly, I would like to thank the States Members of the United Nations for their constructive engagement. After three rounds of negotiations, they found agreement — a delicate balance of interests. We would not have achieved it without our most valuable tool — dialogue. When peace is at stake, dialogue is not an option; it is our duty.

Before I conclude, I would like to acknowledge that some Member States have called for more detailed information on the proposed reform of the United Nations peace and security pillar. The next step is for the Secretary-General to provide a second comprehensive report to answer those calls. Today we shall take a firm step in the right direction and, through a consensus adoption, we will set a constructive tone for future discussions in this Member State-driven process. There is more work ahead. I hear the questions and concerns of Member States with regard to this important process, and I am confident that the next step will provide the opportunity to respond to those concerns. I appreciate the fact that we approached the draft resolution in a spirit of mutual responsibility. The result is a Member State-owned draft resolution.

I stand ready to use my convening power to ensure that Member States own this important process and its outcome. As we move to the next phase of the process, let us continue to talk and to listen to one another.

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The General Assembly will now consider draft resolution A/72/L.33.

Before giving the floor for explanations of vote or position before the voting on the draft resolution before us, I would like to remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Morales López (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, let me highlight your leadership, Sir, as President of the General Assembly, and that of Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza, Permanent Representative of Rwanda, and Ambassador Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia, as facilitators of the vital draft resolution A/72/L.33, which aims to modernize and update the work of the United Nations, with earnest and constructive dialogue among the States Members of the United Nations, committed to the visionary proposal of Secretary-General António Guterres, whom we selected to fulfil that complex duty.

I underscore that Colombia fully supports the draft resolution before the Assembly. It is clear that achieving global peace and security now requires bold, effective and swift measures capable of responding to the needs of the current structure of this Organizational pillar. As we have stated in various forums and open discussions pertaining to the draft reform, which demonstrate transparency and inclusiveness on the part of the Secretary-General, his team and the office of the facilitators of the draft resolution, the results of this modernization exercise will provide a new and improved structure whose impact is not simply rhetorical.

Each day, 44,000 United Nations employees of all levels, nationalities and professional backgrounds, as well as more than 110,000 troops on the ground, wear the emblem of the Organization as they fulfil the mandate of the Charter of the United Nations, whose influence on the lives of millions of people is undeniable. According to World Bank statistics, 1.2 billion people, approximately one fifth of the world's population, have been affected by some form of violence or armed conflict since 2014, with more than 200,000 people killed every year. According to the 2015 statistics of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 12.4 million people have been victims of forced displacement, 8.6 million of them in their own countries.

Saving and improving lives is the primary reason such reform is vital and urgent. The United Nations,

in particular its Secretary-General, the highest-ranking administrative official of the Organization, must have the tools necessary to conduct their work, with political and managerial flexibility, in keeping with the guidelines of the various mandates, a more coherent strategy for providing a swift response to meeting needs on the ground and greater accountability that allows for ongoing reflection about what works and what does not so as to allow for more effective operations.

I believe that, if the draft resolution is adopted, the proposal being discussed will allow us to achieve tangible results based on our collective efforts to attain sustainable global peace and build a more effective and coherent Organization.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote or position before the voting on the draft resolution before us.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/72/L.33, entitled "Restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt it without a vote?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/199).

The President: Before giving the floor for explanations of position on the resolution just adopted, I would like to remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): The United States wishes to thank you, Mr. President, and the facilitators for leading a transparent and swift consultation process on reforming the United Nations peace and security architecture.

The United States supports the Secretary-General's initiative to reform the United Nations peace and security architecture and his efforts to make the United Nations more field-focused. With more focused, effective and efficient United Nations operations, the Organization will be better able to address the needs of those on the ground.

Any reform that we implement must advance political solutions and enable the United Nations system to tailor its responses to the needs of countries in conflict or transition. My delegation continues to support the Secretary-General's efforts to change the way the United Nations does business. We endorse the

Secretary-General's vision for management reform of the Secretariat. Today's resolution demonstrates that the Secretary-General has wide-reaching endorsement from the States Members of the United Nations for his vision to make the United Nations a stronger and more relevant institution that can prevent and respond to conflicts and atrocities. We look forward to seeing further details in the coming months, and we pledge to be effective partners in working with all Member States to help implement that vision.

Mr. Gómez Camacho (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to begin by thanking you, Mr. President, and the two facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Rwanda and Slovakia, for their remarkable work on resolution 72/199.

Mexico joined the consensus adoption of resolution 72/199 because it supports the efforts and vision of the Secretary-General. His proposal is geared towards making the United Nations stronger and better able to respond to the challenges of sustainable development, peace and security and human rights. To that end, it is crucial that the Secretary-General have the full support of the General Assembly to ensure that the proposal, which meets the structural needs of the Organization and is in line with the interests of the States Members of the United Nations, can be implemented as soon as possible.

Nonetheless, there is a contradiction. Resolution 72/199, on the reform of the peace and security architecture, includes no references to sustainable peace or to resolution 70/262, which was the result of the 2015 review of the peacebuilding architecture and whose recommendations are the building blocks of the Secretary-General's proposal. It is hoped that that omission is not an indication of an aversion to implementing the genuine changes the Organization needs. We hope that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 72/199 will be substantive and will help us to continue to make progress in understanding and implementing the paradigm shift of sustainable peace.

We believe that, in the detailed report on the proposed reform, the Secretariat will maintain the transparent, clear and timely communication we have enjoyed to date and that the changes will lead to a more coherent, transparent and efficient United Nations.

Mrs. Martinic (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank you, Mr. President, and the facilitators of

resolution 72/199, Rwanda and Slovakia, for their efforts to achieve a consensus-based resolution on an issue of vital importance to the future of the Organization.

Argentina again welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General to take forward the process of the structural reform of the United Nations, in particular with regard to the peace and security pillar, with the understanding that such reform could considerably improve the Organization's performance. In that regard, we agree that the United Nations should adopt a holistic, strategic and integrated approach to activities related to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, sustainable peace and development. We reiterate that the proposed reform could be a step in the right direction. It could prevent the fragmentation of the Organization's work and enhance coherence and coordination in the activities of the various pillars of all phases of conflict, in line with the narrative of sustainable peace.

I would like to briefly mention some specific elements of the major reform proposed. We agree on the fact that it is important to pay greater attention to the root causes of conflicts and to find solutions based on national involvement, while highlighting the issues of prevention and sustaining peace and focusing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Likewise, we support the idea of strengthening the functions of the Peacebuilding Support Office, bolstering its role as the linchpin of the three pillars and their link with the initiatives and instruments of the United Nations.

I would like to conclude by underscoring that Argentina supports the Secretary-General's first report on restructuring the United Nations peace and security pillar (A/72/525), which promotes the idea of focusing on prevention. Argentina eagerly awaits a more detailed report on the implementation of the reforms proposed, which will be issued later in the seventy-second session. In that regard, we thank the Secretary-General for his willingness and efforts to maintain an ongoing exchange of ideas through consultations with the States Members of the United Nations, and we encourage him to continue holding such consultations until the reform process has been completed.

Mr. Zhang Dianbin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): As the most universal, representative and authoritative intergovernmental international organization, the United Nations is a very effective platform that we can use to collectively address diverse threats and

challenges. In the light of such new challenges and threats, the United Nations should attempt to improve itself through reform so that it can better shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Charter of the United Nations, promote multilateralism and meet the needs of global governance.

China thanks the Secretary-General for his efforts to promote the reform of the United Nations peace and security pillar. We support the efforts of the United Nations to further integrate resources, improve efficiency so that it can better address global challenges, and play a greater role in the area of peace and security. China thanks the President of the General Assembly and the facilitators of the draft resolution, in particular for convening the intergovernmental process, during which the opinions of the States Members of the United Nations are extensively sought so as to improve the openness and transparency of the process. The restructuring of the peace and security pillar of the United Nations will have a profound impact on the Organization's work in that area.

The reform programme requires in-depth discussion, as well as extensive exploration by Member States, in order for an overwhelming consensus to be reached. We expect the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report on the reform programme as soon as possible. We hope that he will strengthen coordination and communication with Member States, in particular with regard to moving forward with restructuring the peace and security pillar, improving working methods, paying attention to the views of Member States in order to accommodate their legitimate concerns and enhancing the transparency of the reform process. The next stage of deliberations in the General Assembly will commence in 2018. Consultations will be held on substantive issues, including setting up specific institutions, assigning responsibilities, staffing and budget. It is hoped that, during the next stage of the process, we will continue to adhere to the principles of openness, transparency, democratic consultation and ownership on the part of Member States, with a view to reaching consensus through extensive consultations. China will join other Member States and take active part in the deliberations with regard to a concrete reform process for the United Nations peace and security pillar. It will do its part to improve and strengthen the work of the United Nations.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation joined the consensus

adoption of resolution 72/199, entitled "Restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar".

We would like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing in the General Assembly, the most representative organ of the United Nations, an intergovernmental discussion about the preliminary ideas of Secretary-General António Guterres with regard to the reform of United Nations peace and security pillar, which are outlined in his report (A/72/525). We are convinced that, based on transparency and trust, such an approach can ensure efficiency and have long-term positive effects on implementing the reform. That approach is especially important as we engage in the reform process because the changes being made will no doubt include a political dimension.

We welcome the Secretary-General's efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations. We are prepared to work with him and other Member States so that together we might have a mutual understanding of what the United Nations of tomorrow would look like.

We believe that the discussion among States during the course of drafting the resolution just adopted, including what has been said today, will be the basis for a comprehensive report of the Secretary-General, as well as discussion by the General Assembly. We recognize and respect the various points of view that exist on various aspects of the reform process. We understand that all these questions will be discussed in detail so that in the final analysis we might be able to come up with a mutual understanding. All of that is the essence of the United Nations, and that is why we established the Organization, which should be an indestructible foundation for a multipolar world order.

The basis of the reform process is underlined by the interrelated nature of the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, development and human rights. Indeed, these three areas, like all other aspects of the work of our Organization, are interrelated. That does not mean that all of these questions must be dealt with in the same structure. The principles of the distribution of labour and accountability must underpin our work to ensure its full effectiveness. That is why we value highly the attempts of the Secretary-General to maintain the existing mandates, functions and sources for financing so as to avoid any duplication of effort.

We believe it important that, in any reform process, due attention be paid to ensuring equitable geographical distribution. The United Nations stands to benefit from

that. We believe that the resolution, which will follow a comprehensive report, will ensure a reliable consensual basis for achieving the desired reforms.

Mr. Awad (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): We would like to thank the representatives of Rwanda and Slovakia for their efforts, and you, Mr. President, for sponsoring the negotiations that have resulted in the adoption by consensus of the procedural resolution 72/199, on the restructuring of the United Nations peace and security pillar. The delegation of Egypt would like to seize this opportunity to stress the following points.

First, an innovative approach should be taken to effectively address new and emerging challenges along with other untraditional challenges facing international peace and security. We therefore need to develop the tools available to the United Nations so that it can be more effective and capable of addressing such challenges comprehensively.

Secondly, Egypt appreciates, in principle, the importance of the efforts that led to the reform and the restructuring of the Secretariat peace and security pillar. In that regard, we take note of the Secretary-General's initiative and his preliminary report on the matter (A/72/525). We reaffirm that the General Assembly and its subsidiary committees are the only entities that can adopt any restructuring proposals, by consensus, following consideration of the comprehensive report that will be issued by the Secretary-General on the matter. We look forward to that report.

Thirdly, the delegation of Egypt reaffirms that any proposals for the restructuring of the peace and security pillar of the Secretariat must be undertaken in full respect for the mandates of all United Nations organs without any amendment to such mandates. The coordination of the work of the Secretariat must be undertaken without confusing the roles of the three pillars of the United Nations .

Fourthly, we emphasize that the restructuring proposal should contain no controversial concepts that do not enjoy consensus by Member States. It must also include a comprehensive framework that ensures transparency and accountability in the Secretariat and contributes to the achievement of tangible results in the countries and societies that are covered by the United Nations missions.

Fifthly, Egypt underscores that sustainable development is a right and a stand-alone objective. It

is a unique value that must be achieved effectively, without preconditions and without prejudice to the resources and financial allocations dedicated to such an effort by the Organization.

In conclusion, we look forward to the detailed report of the Secretary-General on the matter so that Member States may consider it, discuss it objectively in the General Assembly and take action on the package of the proposed amendments in an integrated manner.

Mr. Fox-Drummond Gough (Brazil): At the outset, Brazil would like to welcome the vision of the Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, of a more effective United Nations. The Organization needs to be nimbler in order to better implement all mandates in each and every pillar of its initiatives: peace and security, development and human rights. My delegation would like to commend the Secretary-General for his commitment to open, transparent consultations with the General Assembly throughout the reform process. Brazil has supported the reform of the peace and security architecture of the Secretariat. We welcome efforts to overcome fragmentation and enhance the prevention framework of the United Nations. We also welcome the focus on the role of peacebuilding within the larger framework of reform.

My delegation called for a lean and balanced text for resolution 72/199. We believe that many assurances have been put forward in the text and thank the facilitators for their work. However, my delegation would like once again to draw attention to the nature of this reform. This is not a reform of the whole of the peace and security pillar of the United Nations, which cannot be complete without reform of the composition and working methods of the Security Council. The reform we start today with the adoption of this resolution is limited to the peace and security architecture of the Secretariat. Brazil looks forward to the upcoming comprehensive report of the Secretary-General, in which, we trust, all views expressed on this issue during the intergovernmental consultations will be reflected.

Mr. Jürgenson (Estonia): I speak on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Albania; the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, the

Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its member States welcome the adoption of resolution 72/199. With this clear and short text adopted by consensus, the General Assembly expresses without any ambiguity its strong support for the Secretary-General and his vision to reform the peace and security pillar of the Secretariat. We have now given him the go-ahead to start working and delivering on this reform, and we look forward to his detailed report on all the aspects of the new peace and security pillar, to be discussed in the spring in the relevant United Nations forums.

As we have said before, the Secretariat must act as one, building upon the lessons of the past years and past reforms, while taking into account the specificities of all the facets of its work on the ground. This institutional restructuring is a timely opportunity to ensure a twofold improvement: that the peace and security pillar as a whole works in a more coherent, nimble and strategic way; and that it works more effectively with the other pillars of the United Nations system.

Through such efforts, the Secretariat can improve its ability to prevent conflict, maintain and consolidate peace with the aim of sustaining peace. We fully support this approach, and we believe the Secretary-General has not only the authority, as provided by the Charter, but also now our full political endorsement in the first steps of implementing this vision. There is a substantial link between reform of the peace and security pillar and management reform. We believe in particular that more integrated field support for successful peace operations is required to respond efficiently to current challenges. Progress on the other aspects of reform is therefore essential, and the European Union will continue to support efforts to that end. We believe that with the adoption of this resolution, the General Assembly not only sets in motion the reform of the peace and security pillar, but also sets a good precedent for the other aspects of reform.

With regard to paragraph 3, the EU recalls Article 101 of the Charter:

“The paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity. Due regard shall be paid

to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.”

This must also take into account the Secretary-General’s efforts to achieve full gender parity.

Let me also congratulate the two facilitators for the great work they have accomplished both in substance and in process. They were given a clear mandate by the President of the General Assembly. Over three weeks, they have been able to produce a clear and concise text ready for adoption. That is a great job, and they should be commended for this.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position. The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 123 and 124.

Reports of the Second Committee

The President: The General Assembly will consider the reports of the Second Committee on agenda items 16 to 26, 63, 121 and 137.

I request the Rapporteur of the Second Committee, Mrs. Theresah Chipulu Luswili Chanda of Zambia, to introduce the reports of the Second Committee in one intervention.

Mrs. Chanda (Zambia), Rapporteur of the Second Committee: It is an honour for me to introduce to the General Assembly the reports of the Second Committee on the agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session.

These reports, contained in documents A/72/417 to A/72/428, as well as documents A/72/479 and A/72/484, include the texts of draft resolutions and draft decisions recommended by the Second Committee to the General Assembly for adoption. For the convenience of delegations, a checklist of action taken in the Committee has been prepared by the Secretariat, as contained in document A/C.2/72/INF/1, in English only.

During the main part of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, the Second Committee held 27 plenary meetings and four special events, one of which was a joint formal meeting with the Economic and Social Council. The Committee also held its annual dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions. The Second Committee adopted a total of 41 draft resolutions, 12 of which were adopted with a vote, and two draft decisions.

Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Under agenda item 16, entitled “Information and communications technologies for development”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/417, paragraph 14, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 17, entitled “Macroeconomic policy questions”, the report of the Committee has been issued in seven parts. The report under the chapeau is contained in document A/72/418, and the recommendations are contained in the following addenda.

Under sub-item 17 (a), entitled “International trade and development”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/418/Add.1, paragraph 13, the adoption of two draft resolutions.

Under sub-item 17 (b), entitled “International financial system and development”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/418/Add.2, paragraph 8, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 17 (c), entitled “External debt sustainability and development”, the Committee recommends, in document A/72/418/Add.3, paragraph 10, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 17 (d), entitled “Commodities”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/418/Add.4, paragraph 8, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 17 (e), entitled “Financial inclusion for sustainable development”, the Committee recommends, in document A/72/418/Add.5, paragraph 10, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 17 (f), entitled “Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows in order to foster sustainable development”, the Committee recommends, in document A/72/418/Add.6, paragraph 10, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 18, entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development”, the Committee recommends, in document A/72/419, paragraph 14, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 19, entitled “Sustainable development”, the report of the Committee has been issued in 11 parts. The report under the

chapeau is contained in document A/72/420, and the recommendations are contained in the chapeau, as well as in the addenda.

Under the chapeau of item 19, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/420, paragraph 51, the adoption of seven draft resolutions.

Under sub-item 19 (a), entitled “Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/420/Add.1, paragraph 8, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 19 (b), entitled “Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/420/Add.2, paragraph 9, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 19 (c), entitled “Disaster risk reduction”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/420/Add.3, paragraph 9, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 19 (d), entitled “Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/420/Add.4, paragraph 8, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 19 (e), entitled “Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/420/Add.5, paragraph 10, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 19 (f), entitled “Convention on Biological Diversity”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/420/Add.6, paragraph 9, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 19 (g), entitled “Education for sustainable development”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/420/Add.7, paragraph 10, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 19 (h), entitled “Harmony with Nature”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/420/Add.8, paragraph 8, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 19 (i), entitled “Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/420/Add.9, paragraph 11, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 19 (j), entitled “Combating sand and dust storms”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/420/Add.10, paragraph 9, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 20, entitled “Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/421, paragraph 14, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 21, entitled “Globalization and interdependence”, the report of the Committee is issued in five parts. The report under the chapeau is contained in document A/72/422, and the recommendations are contained in the following addenda.

Under sub-item 21 (a), entitled “Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/422/Add.1, paragraph 8, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 21 (b), entitled “Science, technology and innovation for development”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/422/Add.2, paragraph 9, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 21 (c), entitled “Culture and sustainable development”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/422/Add.3, paragraph 7, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 21 (d), entitled “Development cooperation with middle-income countries”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/422/Add.4, paragraph 11, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 22, entitled “Groups of countries in special situations”, the report of the Committee is issued in three parts. The report under

the chapeau is contained in document A/72/423, and the recommendations are contained in the following addenda.

Under sub-item 22 (a), entitled “Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/423/Add.1, paragraph 9, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 22 (b), entitled “Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/423/Add.2, paragraph 9, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 23, entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”, the report of the Committee is issued in four parts. The report under the chapeau is contained in document A/72/424 and the recommendations are contained in the following addenda.

Under sub-item 23 (a), entitled “Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/424/Add.1, paragraph 10, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 23 (b), entitled “Women in development”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/424/Add.2, paragraph 10, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 23 (c), entitled “Human resources development”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/424/Add.3, paragraph 10, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 24, entitled “Operational activities for development”, the report of the Committee is issued in three parts. The report under the chapeau is contained in document A/72/425, and the recommendations are contained in the following addenda.

Under sub-item 24 (a), entitled “Operational activities for development of the United Nations system”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/425/Add.1, paragraph 9, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under sub-item 24 (b), entitled “South-South cooperation for development”, the Second Committee

recommends, in document A/72/425/Add.2, paragraph 8, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 25, entitled “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/426, paragraph 23, the adoption of two draft resolutions.

Under agenda item 26, entitled “Towards global partnerships”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/427, paragraph 8, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 63, entitled “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources”, the Committee recommends, in document A/72/428, paragraph 17, the adoption of one draft resolution.

Under agenda item 121, entitled “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”, the Second Committee recommends, in document A/72/479, paragraph 5, the adoption of one draft decision.

Under agenda item 137, entitled “Programme planning”, as indicated in paragraph 2 of document A/72/484, no action was required.

In conclusion, I should like to highlight the cooperation that prevailed in the Second Committee. Though the Committee had to extend its work for one week to reach a conclusion on all items before it, the Committee was able to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it by the Assembly and to complete its work effectively and constructively. The Committee concluded its work on 30 November, which is the earliest since the forty-first session, of 1986, when the Committee completed its work on 28 November.

On behalf of the Bureau of the Second Committee, I convey our appreciation to all the coordinators, facilitators and negotiators responsible for our draft resolutions. We thank all delegations for their constructive participation and commitment.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the leadership of our Chair, His Excellency Mr. Sven Jürgenson of Estonia, as well as the commitment of the other members of the Bureau and Vice-Chairs, Mr. Menelaos Menelaou of Cyprus, Ms. Cristiana Mele of Italy and Ms. Kimberly Louis of Saint Lucia.

I also wish to thank Ambassador Kapambwe of Zambia, his Mission and its staff for their encouragement, and the secretariat of the Second Committee for its outstanding assistance and support to the Bureau and to all delegations during our deliberations.

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish all members of the Assembly and their families very happy holidays.

The Acting President: I thank the Rapporteur of the Second Committee for having introduced the report of the Second Committee. I should also like to congratulate the Chair, Bureau and all members of the Committee for having improved greatly on the previous year by concluding their work in such record time.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Second Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. Therefore, if there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Second Committee before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

“When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation’s vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.”

I should like to advise representatives that we shall proceed to take decisions on the recommendations contained in the report of the Second Committee in the same manner as was done in the Committee, unless the Secretariat is notified otherwise in advance. This means that where separate or recorded votes were taken, we will do the same. I should also hope that we may proceed to adopt without a vote those recommendations that were so adopted in the Second Committee. The results of the votes will be uploaded to the PaperSmart portal.

Before proceeding further, I would like to draw the attention of members to a note by the Secretariat, in English only, entitled “List of proposals contained in

the reports of the Second Committee”, which has been circulated as document A/C.2/72/INF/1. The note has been distributed desk to desk in the General Assembly Hall as a reference guide for action on draft resolutions and decisions recommended by the Second Committee in its reports. In this connection, members will find, in the fourth column of the note, the symbols of the draft resolutions or decisions of the Committee, with the corresponding symbols of the reports for action in the plenary in column two of the same note. For reports containing multiple recommendations, the draft resolution or decision number is contained in column three of the note.

Furthermore, members are reminded that additional sponsors are no longer accepted now that draft resolutions and decisions have been adopted in the Committee. Any clarification about sponsorship in the Committee reports should be addressed to the Secretary of the Committee.

Members are also reminded that any corrections to the voting intention of delegations after the voting has concluded on a proposal should be made directly to the Secretariat after the meeting. I count on members' cooperation in avoiding any interruptions to our proceedings in this regard.

Agenda item 16

Information and communications technologies for development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/417)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 14 of its report.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/200).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 16?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 17

Macroeconomic policy questions

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/418)

The Acting President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided (decision 72/538).

(a) International trade and development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 13 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolutions I and II, one by one.

Draft resolution I is entitled “Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries”. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines,

Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Draft resolution I was adopted by 130 votes to 2, with 48 abstentions (resolution 72/201).

The Acting President: We now turn to draft resolution II, entitled “International trade and development”. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia,

Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Draft resolution II was adopted by 182 votes to 2 (resolution 72/202).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 17?

It was so decided.

(b) International financial system and development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.2)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We shall now take a decision on the draft resolution.
A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan,

Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

The draft resolution was adopted by 180 votes to 2 (resolution 72/203).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 17?

It was so decided.

(c) External debt sustainability and development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.3)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/204).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 17.

It was so decided.

(d) Commodities

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.4)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia,

Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

The draft resolution was adopted by 182 votes to 2 (resolution 72/205).

The Acting President: May I take that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 17.

It was so decided.

(e) Financial inclusion for sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.5)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/206).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 17.

It was so decided.

(f) Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows in order to foster sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/418/Add.6)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/207).

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Nigeria, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Bolaji (Nigeria): Since the introduction of the text of resolution 72/207, at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, the delegations of Nigeria and Norway, like some other delegations, have made efforts to bridge the knowledge gap within the United Nations with regard to the issue of illicit financial flows. That has led to the establishment of the interlinkage between the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and combating illicit financial flows, as well as strengthening the recovery and return of stolen assets to their countries of origin. The international community should no longer turn a blind eye to that fact, which has been well articulated and accepted in several reports, such as those of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; and in SDG target 16.4, and the Political Declaration on the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crimes in West Africa, known as the Abuja Declaration, among others.

Therefore, given the avalanche of information provided by the various forums that I just mentioned, my delegation, together with many others, had expected a more robust outcome from informal consultations. Nevertheless, resolution 72/207, which we have just adopted, has enough ingredients to boost international cooperation aimed at preventing and combating illicit financial flows — whether originating from tax evasion, corruption, money-laundering or transnational organized crime — as well as to strengthen the recovery and return of illicitly acquired assets, with the hope of hastening the realization of our ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The destabilizing effects of illicit financial flows on the development of societies — especially developing ones — and the slow pace involved in the recovery and return of stolen assets, including the proceeds of corruption, tax evasion, transnational bribery and other forms of illicit flows to requesting States, would otherwise continue to be a wound on the conscience of the global community.

My delegation would like to use this forum to appeal to Member States, in furtherance of their efforts to combat illicit financial flows, to consider requesting, in the subsequent session, a comprehensive report by the Secretary-General on this crucial issue, in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, my delegation is convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that setting up an intergovernmental body by the General Assembly would properly situate and coordinate the various disjointed mandates in different bodies on the different dimensions of illicit financial flows and develop an appropriate instrument for their recovery and return.

It is common knowledge that most developing countries are yearning for the kind of body that would ease their frustration in combating illicit financial flows. That is why my delegation would like to request early preparations for the upcoming high-level meeting recommended by the resolution, to be convened by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session. We believe that setting up a robust environment for the meeting by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session would be a valuable legacy for the next session of the Assembly. It is in recognition of that fact and of the need for all

hands on deck that President Muhammadu Buhari has accepted the clarion call to champion the annual theme of the African Union for 2018, “Winning the fight against corruption: a sustainable path to Africa’s transformation”. In that regard, the resolution would serve as a veritable platform for collaboration at all levels towards achieving this onerous task.

In conclusion, we wish to reiterate Nigeria’s readiness to contribute its part, where necessary, to the holding of the high-level conference on illicit financial flows and assets recovery, to be convened by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session. Furthermore, to give the required teeth to this resolution and in preparation for the high-level conference, Member States are enjoined to demonstrate the necessary political will to address the seemingly intractable issue of illicit financial flows by sharing information and providing technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries in order to ensure that no one is left behind.

The broader picture we all need to see is the positive impact of combating illicit financial flows and returning stolen assets for better and more fruitful livelihoods, rather than focusing on the difficult conditionalities that may hinder the progress of developing countries in the long run.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (f) of agenda item 17 and of agenda item 17 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 18

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/419)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 14 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/208).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 18?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 19

Sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/420)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it seven draft resolutions, recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 51 of its report.

We will now take a decision on draft resolutions I to VII, one by one. Thereafter, representatives will again have the opportunity to explain their vote on any or all of the draft resolutions.

Draft resolution I is entitled “Oil slick on Lebanese shores”. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal,

Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Tonga, Vanuatu

Draft resolution I was adopted by 163 votes to 7, with 9 abstentions (resolution 72/209).

The Acting President: Draft resolution II is entitled “International Year of Camelids, 2024”. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 72/210).

The Acting President: Draft resolution III is entitled “World Bee Day”. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 72/211).

The Acting President: Draft resolution IV is entitled “Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 72/212).

The Acting President: Draft resolution V is entitled “International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and

economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan". The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 72/213).

The Acting President: Draft resolution VI is entitled "Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America". The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 72/214).

The Acting President: Draft resolution VII is entitled "Agricultural technology for sustainable development". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka,

Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia

Against:

Syrian Arab Republic

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 152 votes to 1 with 29 abstentions (resolution 72/215).

The Acting President: I give the floor to those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of vote or position on a resolution just adopted.

Mr. Židan (Slovenia) (*spoke in Slovenian; English interpretation provided by the delegation*): I am greatly honoured to be able to address the General Assembly with regard to resolution 72/211, on the proclamation of World Bee Day.

This is a very important day for Slovenia and the world. After three years of intensive efforts — both in terms of the official procedures at the United Nations and with regard to the rigorous process of informing countries around the world — the resolution on World Bee Day has been adopted. Through this initiative, which began in the fall of 2014 at the suggestion of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, we have worked to raise awareness among various stakeholders around the world at both the political and expert levels. In the framework of the official procedures, the initiative was unanimously adopted during the fortieth Conference of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome in July. I would like to take this opportunity to once again express, on my behalf and on behalf of Slovenia, my gratitude to all the delegations for their engagement and strong support throughout the

process. I would also like to thank everyone who helped bring about the adoption of this important resolution.

I am extremely happy that all the countries of the world are united in the conviction that ensuring global food security is one of the key social issues at the global level and an priority task in the global development of agriculture. Worldwide, there are 815 million people suffering from hunger. Caring for bees and other pollinators is part of the fight against world hunger. The data compiled by the FAO shows that bees and other pollinators are invaluable when it comes to ensuring global food security. A third of all food produced in the world is dependent upon pollination by bees and other pollinators. In addition, bees are important to the plants they pollinate, which in turn are also an important source of jobs and income for farmers, particularly for small and family farms in developing countries. Last but not least, bees also play a significant role in preserving the ecological balance and biodiversity in nature. As good bioindicators of environmental conditions, bees alert us when something is happening to the environment and that we must take action.

Studies by the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature show that the populations of bees and other pollinators have significantly decreased, making them more and more endangered. Various factors are involved in that phenomenon. Through the annual observance of World Bee Day, we will draw the attention of the world's public and political decision-makers to the importance of protecting bees, and we will remind ourselves that we depend on bees and other pollinators.

By protecting bees and other pollinators, we will significantly contribute to solving problems related to the global food supply and eliminating hunger in developing countries. We will halt the further loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The declaration of World Bee Day is a responsibility. We would like to do more to protect bees and other pollinators, to be more active in preserving biodiversity and, above all, to be more successful in the fight against world hunger, in which bees and other pollinators play a key role in ensuring food production. This is just the beginning of a demanding process of protecting bees and other pollinators. In order to be

successful, we must first address the Governments of all countries, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. Awareness of the vital importance of protecting bees must reach every individual. And we must do more than just talk — we must also act. We must take concrete action to increase care for bees and to promote beekeeping everywhere, including in developing countries.

I am confident that, with international cooperation, especially by enhancing our joint care for bees, we will be able to better protect bees and promote beekeeping. Therefore, I call on the Assembly to join our efforts and to celebrate World Bee Day together every year on 20 May. Together, we can actively contribute to raising public awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators and to ensuring their protection.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 19.

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan,

Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Liberia, New Zealand, Norway, Turkey

The draft resolution was adopted by 131 votes to 48, with 4 abstentions (resolution 72/216).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 19?

It was so decided.

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme

of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.2)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/217).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 19.

(c) Disaster risk reduction

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.3)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/218).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 19?

It was so decided.

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.4)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/219).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 19?

It was so decided.

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.5)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/220).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (e) of agenda item 19?

It was so decided.

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.6)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled “Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development”. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/221).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (f) of agenda item 19?

It was so decided.

(g) Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.7)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled “Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/222).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (g) of agenda item 19?

It was so decided.

(h) Harmony with Nature

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.8)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/223).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 19?

It was so decided.

(i) Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.9)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 11 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The draft resolution was adopted by 183 votes to 2, with 1 abstention (resolution 72/224).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (i) of agenda item 19?

It was so decided.

(j) Combating sand and dust storms**Report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.10)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/225).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (j) of agenda item 19?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 20

Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/421)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 14 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/226).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 20?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 21**Globalization and interdependence****Report of the Second Committee (A/72/422)**

The Acting President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided (decision 72/539).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 21.

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence**Report of the Second Committee (A/72/422/Add.1)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg,

Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

The draft resolution was adopted by 184 votes to 2 (resolution 72/227).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 21?

It was so decided.

(b) Science, technology and innovation for development**Report of the Second Committee (A/72/422/Add.2)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/228).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 21?

It was so decided.

(c) Culture and sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/422/Add.3)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda,

Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

The draft resolution was adopted by 185 votes to 2 (resolution 72/229).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 21?

It was so decided.

(d) Development cooperation with middle-income countries

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/422/Add.4)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 11 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/230).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (d) of agenda item 21, and of agenda item 21 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 22**Groups of countries in special situations****Report of the Second Committee (A/72/423)**

The Acting President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided (decision 72/540).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 22.

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/423/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/231).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 22?

It was so decided.

(b) Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/423/Add.2)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/232).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 22.

Agenda item 23**Eradication of poverty and other development issues****Report of the Second Committee (A/72/424)**

The Acting President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided (decision 72/541).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 23.

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/424/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/233).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 23?

It was so decided.

(b) Women in development**Report of the Second Committee (A/72/424/Add.2)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/234).

The Acting President: I now call on the representative of the Sudan, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): We joined the consensus on resolution 72/234, entitled

“Women in development” and adopted under sub-item (b) of agenda item 23, entitled “Eradication of poverty and other development issues”, based on our belief in the major role played by women in the development and advancement of society. However, we would like to express our concerns with respect to the wording in some paragraphs of the resolution.

The judicial and legal system in the Sudan belongs to one of the main legal systems of the world, from which its principles, texts and applications are derived. Therefore, a challenge to one of these systems is a challenge to the international legal system that has been agreed upon by the United Nations as an Organization that brings together the peoples of the entire world, without exception, with their diversity and different geographical affiliations, because we all believe in humankind.

First, some parts of the text in paragraph 32 are flawed and false owing to a lack of understanding of the system pertaining to the personal status of Muslims. Secondly, as I just said, they challenge one of the main legal systems of the world. For those two reasons, we disassociate ourselves from those parts of the text. They are not binding on us at all and we believe they are not binding on States that adopt the same legal systems.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 23?

It was so decided.

(c) Human resources development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/424/Add.3)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 10 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/235).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 23, and of agenda item 23 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 24

Operational activities for development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/425)

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to take note of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided (decision 72/542).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 24.

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/425/Add.1)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 9 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/236).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 24.

(b) South-South cooperation for development

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/425/Add.2)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution, entitled “South-South cooperation”. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/237).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 24.

Agenda item 25

Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/426)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it two draft resolutions recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 23 of its report.

We will now take a decision on draft resolutions I and II, one by one. We first turn to draft resolution I, entitled “Agriculture development, food security and nutrition”. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi

Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

United States of America

Draft resolution I was adopted by 185 votes to 1 (resolution 72/238).

The Acting President: We now turn to draft resolution II, entitled “United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028)”. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/239).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 25?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 26

Towards global partnerships

Report of the Second Committee (A/72/427)

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 8 of its report.

We will now take action on the draft decision. The Second Committee adopted it without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 72/543).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 26?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 63**Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources****Report of the Second Committee (A/72/428)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 17 of its report.

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland,

Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America

Abstaining:

Australia, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Togo, Tonga, Vanuatu

The draft resolution was adopted by 163 votes to 6, with 11 abstentions (resolution 72/240).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 63?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 121 (continued)**Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly****Report of the Second Committee (A/72/479)**

The Acting President: The Assembly has before it a draft decision recommended by the Second Committee in paragraph 5 of its report.

We will now take action on the draft decision, entitled "Programme of work of the Second Committee for the seventy-third session of the General Assembly". The Second Committee adopted it. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted (decision 72/544).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 121.

Agenda item 137 (continued)**Programme planning****Report of the Second Committee (A/72/484)**

The Acting President: May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the Second Committee?

It was so decided (decision 72/545).

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 137.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I would like to thank His Excellency Ambassador Sven Jürgenson, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations and Chair of the Second Committee, the members of the Bureau as well as representatives for a job well done. I think Ambassador Jürgenson is the happiest person today. I also thank the members of the Second Committee for besting their record over last year's. That is something that has not been done for quite some time. Once again, I thank all colleagues who worked expeditiously to finish the work of the Second Committee. I congratulate them.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the reports of the Second Committee before it for this meeting.

Agenda item 7 (continued)**Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items****Third report of the General Committee (A/72/250/Add.2)**

The Acting President: I would now like to draw the attention of representatives to the third report of the General Committee, as contained in document A/72/250/Add.2.

During that meeting, the General Committee held an exchange of views to identify next steps aimed at addressing gaps and duplication in the agenda of the General Assembly as they relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in accordance with resolution 71/323, of 8 September 2017.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the report of the General Committee on its third meeting?

It was so decided (decision 72/502).

Agenda item 15 (continued)**Culture of peace****Draft resolution (A/72/L.32)**

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to introduce draft resolution A/72/L.32.

Mr. Khoshroo (Islamic Republic of Iran): Under agenda item 15, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/72/L.32, entitled "A world against violence and violent extremism".

Let me first express my sincere gratitude to all the sponsors of the draft resolution and to all other delegations for their constructive participation and support during the open consultations conducted by my delegation. Their interventions and proposals helped make the draft resolution reflective of the developments since the adoption of the same resolution two years ago (resolution 70/109).

This draft resolution is a follow-up to, and an update of, consensus resolutions 68/127 and 70/109, which my delegation took pride in, respectively, submitting to the Assembly in 2013 and updating in 2015. That consensus serves to underscore the universal recognition of the need to act on the pressing global challenges of violence and violent extremism. The idea behind the draft resolution, which was presented by His Excellency Mr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during his address to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session (see A/68/PV.6), was an offshoot of the overarching theme of his presidential campaign platform, which called for interaction, tolerance, moderation and prudence over violence and extremism.

Violent extremism and its side effects, including sectarian violence, have been on the rise since the first resolution on this topic was adopted, in 2013. In the wake of the atrocities committed by extremist groups in Syria and Iraq over the past four years, as well as the atrocities committed by Da'esh and other terrorist groups in various population centres across the globe, it is important that the General Assembly continue to focus on these challenges. In our globalized world, where threats recognize no borders, these challenges can be thwarted only through the joint efforts of the entire international community.

Dialogue, moderation and tolerance are the most effective antidotes to violent extremism, which tries to twist religions and pervert human minds towards death and destruction. It is therefore important that the international community and its individual Member States adopt effective measures along this line and implement them with a view to dealing with the conditions conducive to the genesis and the spread of violent extremism.

In that regard, it is important to avoid associating violent extremism with any particular nationality or religion. In fact, those who blame religions and engage in hate speech against the followers of the divine religions play right into the terrorists' hands and help them to recruit more members and spread such heinous extremist ideology. By reaffirming this point, the General Assembly, as the sole universal body, provides a solid basis for promoting and institutionalizing the fight against violent extremism and sectarian violence at their roots.

Apart from certain basic technical updates to the second resolution on a world against violence and violent extremism, this draft resolution also incorporates a few additional elements. It recalls and reaffirms measures taken at the national and multilateral levels. It recalls the high-level General Assembly conversation on religion for peace held on 5 and 6 May 2016. It also recognizes the efforts made by UNESCO, including through the organization of the conference on the theme "Internet and the radicalization of youth: Preventing, Acting and Living together", held on 30 October and 1 November 2016. In its operative part, the draft resolution notes the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and his report (A/72/621) in response to resolution 70/109 and requests him to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Finally, allow me to express my sincere hope that this draft resolution will gain the broadest possible support and be adopted by consensus. That will help accelerate coordination and cooperation among States towards addressing the problems emanating from violent extremism.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/72/L.32, entitled "A world against violence and violent extremism".

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Nakano (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, and in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of draft resolution A/72/L.32: Azerbaijan, the Central African Republic, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Turkmenistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The Acting President: May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution A/72/L.32?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 72/241).

The Acting President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position following the adoption of the resolution, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Green (Canada): I have the honour of delivering this explanation of position on behalf of Canada.

Canada is pleased to have joined the consensus on resolution 72/241, entitled "A world against violence and violent extremism". Canada is a strong supporter of human rights and condemns the targeting of civilians, which violates international humanitarian law. Canada also strongly condemns the promotion of racial discrimination, xenophobia and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, including by violent extremists.

All citizens have the right to live free from violence and discrimination. In order to achieve a world without violence, the rights of all people must be respected. In addition, the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism recognizes the important linkage between social exclusion, deficits in human rights and factors that can motivate radicalization to violence. Canada strongly supports the inclusion of a reference to the Plan of Action in this resolution.

Recognizing the role of each State in ensuring a peaceful society, and mindful of the objectives outlined in this resolution, we urge all States, in particular the sponsor of the resolution, to comply with their human rights obligations, including with regard to women, ethnic minorities and all religious communities.

Ms. Fisher-Tsin (Israel): Israel joined the consensus in the adoption of resolution 72/241, entitled "A World Against Violence and Violent Extremism".

The problem with this resolution is not the message, but the messenger. Iran, the Member State that brought this resolution to the attention of the international community, is the same Member State that is responsible for what the resolution aims to combat. In fact, this Member State is the nerve centre for violent extremism and terrorism everywhere.

This resolution calls for condemnation of incitement to commit terrorist acts, as well as any attempt at public justification of terror. However, Iran, the initiator of the resolution, is the largest sponsor of terror worldwide. For 38 years, it has threatened, and continues to threaten, the world. Its proxies butcher innocent people, and it violates human rights.

The resolution reaffirms the need to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Yet the sponsor of the resolution is one of the worst violators of human rights in the entire world. Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community are hanged from cranes; girls as young as nine years old are married off to grown men; journalists are arrested for criticizing the regime; and people in prison are tortured.

Although the Iranian-led resolution claims to condemn the targeting of civilian populations, the reality on the ground is remarkably different. Take Syria, for instance. Iran's continued support for Bashar Al-Assad has allowed him to pursue chemical weapons and use them against his own people. Hundreds of thousands of people have died as a result. Right next door, in Lebanon, Iran has provided Hizbullah, its proxy and recognized terrorist organization, with substantial financial support. Iran has helped Hizbullah increase its weapons arsenal to include more than 100,000 rockets and missiles. Hizbullah hides those weapons in hospitals and schools throughout southern Lebanon, turning its innocent people into human shields.

With the adoption of this resolution, it is imperative that we begin by examining the world's largest sponsor of violent extremism — the lead sponsor of this resolution. Needless to say, Iran has already violated the resolution that they themselves initiated. We hope that the standards set forth in the resolution will be followed by all Member States without exception.

Mr. Ababtain (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today joined its sisterly countries — the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Yemen — in the consensus

on resolution 72/241, entitled “A world against violence and violent extremism”, based on our belief in the need for cooperation and a comprehensive effort to prevent and combat violent extremism.

The text of the resolution is in line with current policies with regard to violence and violent extremism, and we support all efforts that aim to achieve that. However, we have to be credible and surmount contradictions, especially when it comes to the security of our countries and communities. Therefore, we have to be clear and state that Iran, which sponsored the resolution just adopted, is the main sponsor of violence and violent extremism all over the world.

The Houthi-Iranian militia has destroyed Yemen and its unity. It continues its violation of international law through its crimes in Yemen and its missile attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia — the latest of which occurred yesterday morning. It is not the only militia in existence. There are other Iranian militias, such as Hizbullah, which has wreaked havoc in Lebanon and Syria. Facts and realities prove that Iran supports extremist groups, starting with facilitating their border crossings and providing them with weapons and other prohibited items, to providing them with training, recruitment and financing. It is important to refer to the contradictory attitude of Iran, which supports extremist groups and militias in contradiction to the content of the resolution. We therefore condemn the support provided by Iran and underscore the need to prevent and counter all forms of violent extremism, regardless of their motives or justifications.

If we want to work together towards achieving a world free of violence and violent extremism, then the United Nations must make Iran shoulder its full responsibility. The Iranian initiative is a true example of a verse in the Holy Koran,

“... why do you say that which you do not do?” (*The Holy Koran, LXI:2*)

Ms. Eckels-Currie (United States of America): Just yesterday morning, the General Assembly adopted a strong resolution (resolution 72/189) condemning Iran for continuing to commit human rights violations. The Assembly called on Iran to end the harassment and detention of journalists and to cease its targeting of dual and foreign nationals for arbitrary detention. The General Assembly also voiced its concern about Iran's practice of targeting minority religious communities and called on Iran to comply with its obligations under

international law (see A/72/PV.73). Yet 24 hours later, it is the Islamic Republic of Iran, the largest State-sponsor of terrorism in the world, that is the sponsor of the resolution before us (resolution 72/241) — a resolution entitled “A world against violence and violent extremism”. Iran’s Government has engaged in abusive and destructive behaviour — often in clear violation of its international obligations — that runs directly counter to the letter and spirit of this resolution.

Instead of promoting peace, Iran’s actions have fuelled ethnic and religious conflict, directly supported terrorism and threatened the peace and security of its neighbours and beyond. Still, the United States joined the consensus on the resolution. We did so because we believe in a cooperative and comprehensive effort to prevent and counter violent extremism. The Iranian regime’s hypocrisy in sponsoring this resolution does not change that fundamental belief.

Indeed preventing and countering violent extremism are core elements of our comprehensive approach to countering terrorism. It is essential for the United Nations to strengthen its work to address the underlying social, political and economic trends that terrorists exploit. That is why we welcome the Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and why we applauded his remarks on terrorism and human rights in London last month. We are also pleased that the Secretary-General will soon chair the High-Level Action Group on the Prevention of Violent Extremism. If only Iran shared the Secretary-General’s commitment.

While Iran urges us here in the General Assembly to unite against violence, its Government actively foments violence across the Middle East. In direct violation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), the Iranian regime smuggles illicit weapons and dispatches military advisers to conflicts from Yemen to Syria to Lebanon.

Iranian support for Hizbullah has expanded the group’s arsenal to more than 100,000 rockets and missiles, magnitudes greater than their capability at the end of the last war, in 2006 — directly challenging Lebanese sovereignty and threatening the safety and security of the State of Israel.

At home, Iran has refused to denounce senior Al-Qaida leaders who take refuge there, and Iran continues to allow Al-Qaida to move significant funds and fighters through its territory.

In addition, while today’s resolution calls on countries to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in their fight against violent extremism, Iran does the opposite. It abuses its own people, suppresses political opponents, persecutes members of religious and ethnic minorities and imprisons journalists and tourists on phony charges.

Iran has the highest rate of executions globally, with more than 530 in 2016 alone. This is a serious cause for concern, considering the fact that many executions are carried out without due process and for crimes that do not meet international requirements. For instance, Iran continues to impose the death penalty on persons who committed their alleged crimes as juveniles, and cruel and unusual punishment abounds. In one case, a prisoner was forced to endure more than 459 lashes — a barbaric punishment that Iran thought was fit for a journalist who dared to report on city officials.

Those are the facts of life for the Iranian people today. Their Government’s cynical sponsorship of this resolution does not fool us for one second. Although the United States joined the consensus on the resolution, we have not forgotten the abuse Iranians endure or the terror their neighbors experience because of the Tehran regime, and we will not turn a blind eye to the violence and violent extremism sponsored by Iran. If our experience in the Assembly has taught us one thing, it is this: If we are to promote a world truly against violence and violent extremism, we cannot allow a country’s words to provide cover for its actions.

Ms. Mukhametzyanova (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian delegation joined the consensus on the adoption of resolution 72/241, entitled “A world against violence and violent extremism”. We are grateful to the delegation of Iran for its efforts to reach an agreement on the resolution and for its organization of a transparent negotiation process.

We would like to present our approach to this issue. We believe that realizing the potential of the resolution requires additional thinking in the light of the current level of the threats emanating from terrorism and extremism. That requires us not to limit ourselves just to a technical update of the text. Unfortunately, however, not all delegations were prepared for such work.

With the adoption of resolution 70/291, on the review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in July 2016, the concept of violent extremism was clearly laid out

within the counter-terrorism framework. We believe that extremism is not separate from terrorism, as terrorism constitutes its breeding ground and precursor and, conversely, terrorism is also a form of extremism. Efforts to counter violent extremism must be based on a solid foundation of international law, primarily the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of sovereignty and the equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs.

This is all the more important in situations whereby the ambiguity of this term is being used to promote all kinds of questionable concepts. In particular, we are referring to its use as justification for the exemption from criminal responsibility of reintegrated terrorists, which only results in their impunity. We cannot agree with such approaches, nor with the logic that includes under the terms of terrorism and violent extremism xenophobia, political radicalization and other similar phenomena. It does not matter whether these activities involve unlawful violence or not — extremist propaganda, especially that which receives foreign support, can, without violence, undermine the rule of law, traditions and customs, destabilize the State and society and lead to massive human rights violations.

In our view, one of the most important tasks for the General Assembly with regard to the topic under consideration today is to draw a distinction between the phenomena of terrorism, violence, extremism and violent extremism. In that connection, we hope that further decisions of the General Assembly will help clarify these phenomena and provide real added value to the introduction of terminology on violent extremism in United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, which is an effort that began two years ago.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

I now call on the observer of the European Union, who wishes to make a statement following the adoption of resolution 72/241.

Mrs. Cujo (European Union): The European Union and its member States are pleased to have joined the consensus on resolution 72/241, entitled “A world against violence and violent extremism”.

We are strong supporters of preventing and countering all forms of violent extremism, including discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, color, ethnic or social origin; genetic features; language; religion or

belief; political or any other opinion; membership of a national minority; property; birth; disability; age; or sexual orientation.

We also very much welcome the reference to the Secretary-General’s Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism, as preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism is key in our fight against terrorism.

Finally, we would like to recall that, in order to reduce the appeal of violent extremism, States must respect international human rights, promote good governance and uphold the rule of law. We urge all States, including the sponsor of the resolution, to comply with their human rights obligations, including with regard to women, as well as persons belonging to ethnic, sexual and religious minorities.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 15.

Agenda item 115 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(f) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences

Note by the Secretary-General (A/72/107)

The Acting President: As indicated in document A/72/107, since the terms of office of the representatives of Bahrain, the Central African Republic, France, Namibia, Paraguay, the Russian Federation and Sri Lanka will expire on 31 December 2017, it will be necessary for the President of the General Assembly to appoint seven members to fill the resulting vacancies. Those members will serve for a period of three years, beginning on 1 January 2018.

Following consultations with the Chairs of the Group of African States, the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Western European and other States, the President of the General Assembly has appointed Botswana, France and the Russian Federation for a period of three years, beginning on 1 January 2018.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of those appointments?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I should like to remind members that one seat from the Group of African States, two seats from the Group of Asia-Pacific States and one seat from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States still remain to be filled for a term of three years, beginning on 1 January 2018.

I should also like to remind members that one seat from the Group of Asia-Pacific States, for a term beginning on the date of appointment and ending on 31 December 2019, remains vacant.

Following consultations with the Chair of the Group of Asia-Pacific States, the President of the General Assembly has appointed China to fill that vacancy on the Committee on Conferences for a term of office beginning on the date of appointment and ending on 31 December 2019.

I should furthermore like to remind members that one seat from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States remains to be filled for a term beginning on the date of appointment and expiring on 31 December 2018. I sincerely urge those groups to submit their candidates as soon as possible.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (f) of agenda item 115.

Before giving the floor to the speaker in exercise of the right of reply, I would like to remind members that statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and five minutes for the second, and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I now call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Dibaei (Islamic Republic of Iran): Allow me to thank the President and all delegations for the widespread support lent to resolution 72/241, adopted earlier.

I asked for the floor to also say a few words about the statements made by the representatives of the Israeli regime, the United States of America and Saudi Arabia.

In her statement, as usual, the representative of the Israeli regime levelled accusations and allegations against my country that are all baseless and nothing but a bunch of lies. The anger and fury of that regime against the resolution, which is aimed at combating extremism and violence, is quite understandable and

was reflected in the hate speech that she read out today. It is quite understandable that an occupying entity that has created an apartheid system in the territories it occupies and controls cannot tolerate efforts to promote moderation, tolerance and respect for human rights and the rights of peoples. In that sense, the Israeli delegation has deemed the resolution to be against itself.

The speaker represents a regime that has occupied the lands of other nations for many decades and places people in the occupied lands under harsh policies and practices and under siege — practices that have been condemned time and again by the international community. The regime practices one of the most extremist policies ever contemplated and put in place by a ruling entity in the contemporary world, while shamelessly flouting and violating every norm and principle of international law and the civilized world. We are — and, it is safe to say, all humankind is — against the policy of putting people under occupation and siege and of denying them their basic rights and necessities, as the Israelis do to the people living in the occupied territory, including Gaza.

There is no doubt that the occupation, suffering and humiliation that the Palestinian people have endured for so long and the atrocities that the Israelis have committed against them in so many cases, including against Gaza, are a major source of anger and bitterness in our region. The Islamic Republic of Iran has done everything in its power to fight, and support the fight against, violent extremism, and it encourages moderation in the region surrounding us.

Let me say a few words about what we heard from the representative of the United States delegation. Almost a year ago, the United States adopted a new agenda, which apparently requires the levelling of baseless accusations against my country. To justify and advance that agenda, the United States representatives have tried not to miss any opportunities to repeat a host of the same and similar lies against my country. Among other things, that agenda consists of advancing the interests of the Israeli regime in the region and precluding the realization of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. It also focuses on taking undue advantage of some countries in the region by exploiting them and creating false bogeymen. And it requires the United States Government to try to divert regional and international attention from the real issue in our region, which is the occupation and its side effects, including the Israeli apartheid policy, its settlement-

building activity and so on, as well as fictional and delusional claims such as those made by the United States representative today.

It is not a coincidence that, right after the recognition of Al-Quds as the Israeli capital by the United States Administration and the massive condemnation it received, the United States went into high gear in its baseless claims against Iran. What we heard today is indeed a continuation of the policy of deception and raising dust to keep the United States interventionist policy in the region out of the public eye. It is ironic that the Government that has destabilized the whole region is now accusing Iran of conducting a destabilizing policy.

The constructive role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region stands in stark contrast to that of the United States and some of its allies, in particular the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which should be blamed for most of the problems of our region. While the United States continues to prioritize its own narrow political interests and shortsighted goals in our region, the Islamic Republic of Iran is making great sacrifices to combat terrorist groups throughout the region. While the United States is pursuing policies to weaken Governments in the region, Iran is providing assistance, at the request of legitimate Governments, in combating terrorism and violent extremism.

The United States Government's project of regime change inflicts untold suffering and hardship on the people of our region. A plethora of evidence suggests that the so-called moderate opposition that the United States supports in Syria and elsewhere have public and private alliances with well-known terrorist groups and differ from them in neither their methods nor their ideology. Nevertheless, the United States Government continues to arm, train and finance such extremists. The past illegal interventions and aggressions by the United States in different countries of our region have created fertile ground for the spread of extremist

ideology. The extremist elements who are wreaking havoc in our region are influenced by takfiri ideology and recruit their soldiers out of the misery created by the United States illegal presence and irresponsible actions in our region.

The fountainhead of extremism that promotes and legitimizes terrorism and violations of basic human rights lies within the fanatical mindset and ideology centre in Saudi Arabia. Should the world decide to tackle and eliminate violent extremism, it must confront this primary host and facilitator of violent extremism. The House of Saud works against the best interests of the world, both in the West and the Muslim world. For decades, Saudis have lavishly financed their intolerant and extremist creed abroad. Billions of dollars have been spent on exporting fanatical Saudi ideology to various much poorer nations worldwide over the past three decades.

Saudi Arabia provides the most significant source of funding for terrorist groups worldwide. Saudi Arabia remains the critical financial support base for Al-Qaida, the Taliban, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham (ISIS) and other terrorist groups. The Saudis and some of their allies have put hundreds of millions of dollars and tons of weapons in the hands of anyone who would fight against the Government in Syria — whether it be the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Qaida or other extremist elements.

Saudi Arabia, the principal financier of the 911 hijackers, has not ended its efforts to spread its extremist ideology. ISIS was the product of Saudi ideas, Saudi money and Saudi organizational support. Saudi ideology propagates a hateful mindset towards unbelievers that literally includes everyone except its own followers. As such, Saudis are not only teaching such a mindset domestically, but they are also enthusiastically exporting it abroad.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.