



# Economic and Social Council

*Provisional*

11 July 2013

English

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## Substantive session of 2013

### Coordination segment

#### Provisional summary record of the 25th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Monday, 8 July 2013, at 3 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Osman (Vice-President) ..... (Sudan)

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The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2012 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

*General discussion*

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*The meeting was called to order at 3:20 p.m.*

**The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2012 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council** (*continued*)

*General discussion*

**Mr. Zagrekov** (Russian Federation) described the actions undertaken by his country to boost employment and decent work. In particular, it envisaged generating 25 million jobs by 2020, reserving 14,000 positions for persons with disabilities, developing teleworking opportunities for the elderly, and concluding industry-wide agreements between trade unions and employers in 2014. The Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2009 echoed the steps being taken by the Russian Federation to modernize the economy and strengthen the high technology sector. Referring to three G-20 priorities, namely job creation, productive sector investment and investment in economic infrastructure, Mr Zagrekov announced an upcoming meeting of the G-20 in Moscow devoted to work and employment issues, which, for the first time, would bring together ministers of labour and ministers of finance, thereby facilitating a broad, multidisciplinary vision of the problems involved and effective solutions to them.

**Ms. Chan** (Observer for Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group agreed with the conclusions put forward by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 63 and 64 of his report on the subject under review (E/2013/56). The establishment of a universal high-level intergovernmental political forum provided another dynamic forum for mobilizing awareness, imparting guidelines and making recommendations with respect to sustainable development. The Group considered that the capacity to generate decent jobs was closely linked to the re-launching and strengthening of development strategies through the requisite financing, investment, and commercial policies. Developing countries needed to have sufficient room to manoeuvre to devise and manage the various policy instruments at their disposal. The Group underscored the need for the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to increase interaction with the Economic and Social Council, at the highest level, via the discussion of coordination issues.

Deeply concerned at the on-going high levels of un- and under-employment, especially among young people, the Group welcomed the support shown by Heads of State and Government for the implementation of a global youth employment strategy and it underscored the need for effective cooperation for development in order to facilitate employment generation in developing countries. It strongly urged the Council to step up collaboration and global partnerships for development and maintain effective follow-up on the outcomes of major conferences and summits, especially in respect of its ministerial declaration of 2012. The Group called upon all States to give favourable consideration to including production capacity, employment and decent work in the post-2015 development programme.

**Mr. Ledergerber** (Observer for Switzerland) advocated a balanced and multidimensional approach – geared to job creation, the promotion of decent work and the enhancement of workers' skills – in order to advance on the path toward full productive employment and decent work. Such an approach should be reflected in United Nations system activities. Because of its mandate and tripartite structure, the ILO was ideally positioned to be the driving force in this area within the system. It was true that cooperation and coordination needed strengthening, but they ought also to be extended to international financial institutions and regional development banks. Switzerland also supported efforts to share the experiences and complementary strengths of the United Nations system and the private sector. It wanted the full productive employment and decent work objectives to be firmly anchored in the post-2015 development programme.

**Ms. Adhikari** (Nepal) said that her country seconded the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. As the Secretary-General had underscored in his report (E/2013/56), the economic difficulties of the developed countries were spreading to developing countries and countries with economies in transition; the number of unemployed in the world was increasing; and youth unemployment had reached unprecedented levels. Such circumstances were deeply worrying for a country like Nepal, where each year several hundred thousand youths strove to enter the labour market. Under those circumstances, the international community had to make employment for all the centrepiece of its sustainable development and poverty eradication strategy. It had a moral obligation to support the more vulnerable and most fragile

countries and to help them strengthen their productive capacity. The steady decline in real terms of official development assistance over the past few years was worrying. For many countries, ODA remained the most important source of financing for development and, that being so, Nepal called upon all donor countries to honour their commitments in that regard. Moreover, it was essential to make the sharing of knowledge and technology transfers to the least developed countries a top priority. In general, it was important to ensure close collaboration among development partners and consistency in their policies, within the framework of enhanced international cooperation. In that regard, the Council should play a prominent role and provide guidelines geared above all to the most vulnerable countries and the least developed countries.

**Ms. Tinangon** (Indonesia) said that her country supported the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Activities undertaken to combat poverty had to be based on the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities. Partnerships between countries and United Nations agencies at the national level were highly useful in support of poverty reduction programmes and national strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In that respect, Indonesia was helping to promote the ILO's Decent Work Agenda, which matched its integrated development strategy. That strategy had two main lines, namely macroeconomic policies and affirmative action policies. The macroeconomic policies were geared in particular to ensuring sustainable growth, political stability and legal certainty, promoting the reform of administrative procedures and good governance and fighting poverty. The affirmative action policies fell into four categories. The first had to do with social security and aimed to help poor households by offering them grants to purchase rice and scholarships for studies, cash advances, and health insurance. The second category is aimed at making the poor autonomous by enabling to carry out their projects. The purpose of the third is to support the establishment and development of small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular by facilitating access to credit. The last category involves community assistance programmes aimed in particular at the poor and at marginalized groups. It seeks to lower the cost of living by providing affordable housing, transportation services, water and electricity.

*The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.*