

**Economic and Social Council**

Provisional

27 January 2003

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Resumed substantive session of 2002**Provisional summary record of the 45th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 19 December 2002, at 3 p.m.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Briefing on the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict

1. **Mr. Kumalo** (South Africa) recalled that, during the main part of its substantive session, the Council had established the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict. The report on Guinea-Bissau, the first country to be considered, was being finalized and would be presented at the resumed session in January 2003.

2. Members of the Advisory Group had travelled to Guinea-Bissau and had also met with donors and other partners. The country was emerging from conflict, and in 1999 had been part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative and had participated in programmes with the International Monetary Fund. However, the political, economic and social situation had forced a regression, and Guinea-Bissau was apparently sliding back towards conflict. The challenge to the international community lay in preventing that regression. The United Nations had a great deal of experience in dealing with peacekeeping operations and providing assistance, but needed to develop methods for working with countries which were between the extremes of conflict and development. On a positive note, all parties were eager to assist in the efforts to prevent the slide back into conflict. The Government of Guinea-Bissau was trying to regroup in order to be in a position to use the assistance offered, and would soon hold another election to consolidate its democracy.

3. By becoming involved with countries emerging from conflict, the Council was returning to its original mandate. It had also been a positive experience to work jointly with the Security Council on those matters, which allowed both the security and development aspects of a situation to be considered. Most of all, the Council's involvement had given hope to the people of Guinea-Bissau.

Economic and environmental questions (continued)

(c) Statistics (continued) (E/2002/L.42)

Draft resolution E/2002/L.42: Report of the Statistical Commission

4. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution E/2002/L.42. He noted that some editorial changes had been made to paragraph 2.

5. *Draft resolution E/2002/L.42 was adopted.*

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (continued)

(a) Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (continued) (E/2002/53)

6. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Progress report on basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels" contained in document E/2002/53.

7. *It was so decided.*

Non-governmental organizations (continued) (E/2002/71, Part I and Corr.1, and Part II)

8. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the document entitled "Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2002 regular session", contained in document E/2002/71, Part I and Corr.1, and Part II.

9. *It was so decided.*

Economic and environmental questions (continued)

(g) Public administration (continued) (E/2002/L.41)

10. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution E/2002/L.41 entitled "Public administration and development".

11. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Council) said that, under the terms of paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft

resolution, the Council would request the Secretary-General to endeavour to hold a meeting of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in 2003, within existing resources, and would decide to review the request of the Committee that it should meet annually. The convening of a meeting of the Committee in 2003 would give rise to requirements of approximately \$114,500 for the travel and daily subsistence allowance of the experts. It was anticipated that savings of about \$71,000 would be available from the provision of \$163,000 appropriated for the sixteenth meeting. It was estimated, therefore, that an additional amount of \$43,500 would be required. Should the Council adopt the draft resolution, the amount of \$43,500 would be financed in accordance with established practice and a report thereon would be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session in the context of its consideration of the final performance report for the biennium 2002-2003.

12. In accordance with Council resolution 2001/45, the Committee should meet biennially for a period not exceeding 10 working days. In 2002, the Committee had met for five working days (22-26 July). On the assumption that the meeting in 2003 would also be convened for five working days, the related conference servicing requirements, at full cost, would amount to \$358,900. Should the meeting be held during the period 7-11 April 2003, the conference servicing of the Committee could be provided from the existing capacity of the Organization and no additional requirements would arise. Should the Council adopt the draft resolution, it was the intention of the Secretariat to convene the meeting of the Committee during the period 7-11 April 2003 unless the Council decided otherwise.

13. **Ms. Serwer** (United States of America) asked if the \$43,500 in additional costs mentioned would still be needed if the meeting were held during those dates.

14. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Council) said that the amount had not been allocated, but would be found through savings in the regular budget. The larger amount mentioned represented the costs for conference servicing, which could be absorbed if the meeting was held from 7-11 April 2003.

15. *Draft resolution E/2002/L.41 was adopted.*

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

16. **The President** said that he took it that it was the wish of the Council to waive rule 22 of the rules of procedure to allow, on an exceptional basis, the President of the Council for 2002 to preside over the next meeting of the Council to be held on 15 January 2003 to elect the Bureau, at which time the newly-elected President would take over his functions.

17. *It was so decided.*

18. **The President** said that the selection of themes for the segments of the substantive session of the Council for 2003 should not be postponed. The following theme was proposed for the high-level segment: "Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development".

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.25 p.m.

19. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that over the past four months, during lengthy informal consultations, some delegations had appeared ill at ease discussing the topic of rural development and poverty eradication. It was regrettable that there had been apparent disagreement and misunderstanding within the Council on the subject. The Group of 77 and China wished to accept the President's proposed theme, provided that it was not further amended.

20. **Mr. Christensen** (Observer for Denmark), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the European Union, said that those countries had no problem with discussing the topic of rural development and poverty eradication, and had been rather flexible in that approach to the question. It was their belief nonetheless that greater precision in the wording of the theme was required, and they had therefore suggested that rural development could be viewed in relation to, inter alia, education, infrastructure, health and sanitation. The European Union was pleased to accept the President's proposed theme.

21. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela) said that inclusion of the words "integrated approach" in the title of the theme eliminated the need for a listing of the various sectors in terms of which rural development should be approached.

22. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to adopt the proposed theme for the high-level segment of the 2003 substantive session of the Council.

23. *It was so decided.*

24. **The President** said that the following theme was proposed for the coordination segment of the 2003 substantive session of the Council: "The role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits". He took it that the Council wished to adopt the proposed theme.

25. *It was so decided.*

Elections: postponed vacancies

Commission on Population and Development

26. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela), speaking in his capacity as the Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, said that the Group had endorsed the candidature of Guyana to fill one of the vacancies in the Commission on Population and Development.

27. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to elect Guyana by acclamation to the Commission on Population and Development for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2004.

28. *It was so decided.*

Closure of the resumed substantive session

29. **The President** declared the work of the Council at its 2002 resumed substantive session closed.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.