

Provisional

11 August 2011

Original: English

Economic and Social Council**Substantive session of 2011**

General segment

Provisional summary record of the 46th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 27 July 2011, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Seilenthal (Acting Vice-President)..... (Estonia)**Contents**Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

- (a) Sustainable development*
- (c) Statistics*
- (d) Human settlements*
- (e) Environment*
- (f) Population and development*
- (g) Public administration and development*
- (h) International cooperation in tax matters*
- (i) United Nations Forum on Forests*
- (j) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions*
- (k) Cartography*
- (m) Transport of dangerous goods*

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (*continued*)

* Sub-items considered together.

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In the absence of Mr. Kapambwe (Zambia), Mr. Seilenthal (Estonia), Acting Vice-President, took the Chair.

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

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

- (a) **Sustainable development** (E/2011/29, 33, 33/Corr.1 and 110)
- (c) **Statistics** (E/2011/24)
- (d) **Human settlements** (A/66/8 and E/2011/106)
- (e) **Environment** (A/66/25 and Corr.1)
- (f) **Population and development** (E/2011/25)
- (g) **Public administration and development** (E/2011/44)
- (h) **International cooperation in tax matters** (E/2010/45 and 76)
- (i) **United Nations Forum on Forests** (E/2011/42)
- (j) **Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions**
- (k) **Cartography** (E/2011/89 and 119)
- (m) **Transport of dangerous goods** (E/2011/91)

Mr. Seth (Director, Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that the report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management (E/2011/89) had been prepared at the recommendation of the Statistical Commission and the Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific. Consideration of the issue of geospatial information was timely given the rapid technological advances in the area and its growing role in addressing many humanitarian, peace and security, environmental and development challenges, such as climate change, natural disasters, pandemics, famines, population displacement and food and economic crises.

More international cooperation was needed to build infrastructure for the gathering, validation, compilation and dissemination of geospatial information. Because many related policy challenges were of a cross-border nature, appropriate infrastructure standards were also required.

The Secretary-General proposed that the United Nations should serve as the coordinating entity of the global geospatial information community. A technical advisory body under the auspices of the Council could help improve the provision of geospatial information and its integration with statistical data, and thereby support policy decision-making at the national, regional and global levels. The establishment of a committee of experts could help to build national capacity in that regard, especially in developing countries.

Ms. Martinez (Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled: "Coordinated Implementation of the Habitat Agenda" (E/2011/106), said that in the light of increasing demographic and economic dominance of cities and rapid spatial expansion of urban

settlements, especially in developing countries, together with emerging global issues such as climate change, urban insecurity and rising poverty and inequality in cities, there was a need to rethink the urban agenda and adopt new approaches. The public sector had an important role to play in urban planning and development and in preventing and responding to natural or man-made disasters and their impact on cities. Cooperation was crucial to prepare countries and cities for the challenges of developing national urban policies, urban legal frameworks, city enlargements and urban energy and mobility plans. The financial capacity of countries and cities must also be strengthened to improve the living conditions of the close to one billion urban slum-dwellers – a figure that could double over the next 25 years if preventive action was not taken.

UN-Habitat fully supported the Secretary-General's call for coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda. At the global level, UN-Habitat had coordinated the participation of over 40 United Nations agencies during the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai under the theme "Better City, Better Life". At the regional level, UN-Habitat continued to support ministerial conferences on housing and urban development in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thematic activities during the reporting period had focused on humanitarian assistance, and UN-Habitat's work had shown how the human settlement perspective could strengthen the transition between relief and development. A second important focus had been the Cities and Climate Change Initiative. The private sector had become a strategic partner in policy and advocacy activities, facilitating the provision of loans and loan guarantees for urban upgrading projects.

In its efforts to bridge knowledge gaps, raise awareness about global human settlements conditions and trends and advance global dialogue on urban issues, UN-Habitat cooperated with urban researchers and professional institutions from all regions to produce the State of the World Cities reports and the Global Report on Human Settlements. The reports analysed the complex social, political, economic and cultural aspects of urban environments, reviewed the major global challenges facing cities, and provided guidance on the adoption of urban climate change policies.

Urban planning affected the health and well-being of urban populations, the state of the environment, and global prospects for sustainable development. A political commitment was required to prevent the emergence of slums, address climate change issues and fight urban poverty and inequality. The Secretary-General's report (E/2011/106) recommended the convening of a Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in 2016; strong support by all governments and United Nations agencies for UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution No. 23/9 entitled "Global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target"; inclusion by governments of sustainable urban development and the role of cities and local authorities in their contributions to the preparatory and substantive phases of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20); and inclusion by the Council of sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slum upgrading as a cross-cutting issue in the preparation and follow-up of relevant summits and major international conferences, including Rio+20.

Mr. Chaudry (Chief, Global Policy Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Integrated analysis of United Nations system support to small island developing States" (E/2011/110), said that the report analysed the integration into their respective structures by the United Nations entities of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. It also studied global, regional and national responses to issues relevant to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and examined the way in which the United Nations system coordinated its support for SIDS in

the normative, capacity-building and analytical spheres. The analysis drew on information obtained from United Nations organizations, the inter-agency consultative group (IACG) on SIDS and member States.

It emerged from the report that United Nations entities had largely integrated issues relating to SIDS in their work, the two main impediments being lack of sufficient resources and the limitations of their respective mandates. The report called for strengthened coordination in the support provided to SIDS, including enhancement of the role of IACG. United Nations organizations represented in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas (AIMS) region should explore options for setting up a coordinated support mechanism for SIDS. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process could be harnessed to implement a Delivering as One approach in all SIDS.

It might be useful to set up a SIDS focal point in all relevant United Nations entities to ensure effective institutional support. Websites on specific issues of concern — linked to the respective country websites — should be used to promote partnerships, share knowledge and expertise, gather data and facilitate networking. National capacity self-assessment processes, common country assessments and UNDAFs could help facilitate a coordinated response.

SIDS had been participating more actively in intergovernmental processes, which helped ensure that their priorities and concerns were adequately reflected in global and regional decision-making, including in the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences.

Mr. Chenje (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), introducing the report of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum on the work of its twenty-sixth session (A/66/25), said that UNEP implemented internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education in the area of environmental education and training. UNEP was an active member of the Interagency Committee (IAC) for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and would play its part in the follow-up to the 2011 Ministerial Declaration. At its twenty-sixth session, the Governing Council had discussed the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development. It had focused on UNEP's contribution to the Rio+20 preparatory process, particularly on the benefits, opportunities and challenges of a green economy transition, and international environmental governance.

In a world moving rapidly towards irreversible changes to ecosystems and life support services, the Rio+20 Conference represented an opportunity to evolve a sustainable development landscape to meet the economic, environmental and social challenges of the twenty-first century. The report contained 17 decisions adopted by the Governing Council, several of which included provisions relating to the Rio+20 process.

Decision 26/1 entitled: "International environmental governance" proposed to the Rio+20 Preparatory Committee an input for strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development. Decision 26/4 entitled: "Intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services" provided for the convening of a plenary meeting to determine institutional arrangements for the platform. Decision 26/5 entitled: "Ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production" supported the development of such a framework and encouraged governments and other stakeholders to participate actively in the finalization of the framework during meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in its subsequent implementation. Decision 26/9 entitled: "Proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2012–2013" approved appropriations of 190,962 million dollars for the Global Environment Fund.

Mr. Kerrella (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled: “Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals” (E/2011/91), said that chapter I of the report contained a draft resolution carrying the same title as the report (E/2011/L.22). Chapter II concerned the publication by the UNECE secretariat of the sixteenth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations*; the third revised edition of the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals*; and the fifth revised edition of the *Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Tests and Criteria*. The report provided details on the implementation of the various recommendations at country level and the technical cooperation of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and UNEP for the adoption by developing countries of appropriate legislation. Chapter III of the report concerned the work of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in 2009–2010.

A draft resolution (E/2011/L.22) requested approval by the Council of the Committee of Experts’ programme of work and schedule of meetings; and invited the Council to request governments and relevant international organizations to implement the revised Recommendations and provide feedback to the Committee on barriers to implementation. Finally, the draft resolution expressed concern about accidents in port areas and inland container depots relating to the opening and unloading of transport units containing fumigated cargo and requested the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other relevant bodies to take steps to ensure that such transport units containing fumigated cargo were appropriately labelled.

Ms. Handrujovicz (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development should be promoted consistently and in complementary fashion at the national and international levels. Progress on the environment should therefore be matched by simultaneous progress in the economic and social areas.

Poverty, hunger and underdevelopment should remain priorities in efforts to achieve sustainable development. It was therefore vital that the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) be able to serve as an effective forum for ensuring that commitments were met and promoting the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development.

Developing countries could not meet the challenge of environmental degradation and climate change on their own. Cooperation with development partners based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities was the only way forward.

The Council should encourage the international community to provide greater support for the efforts of developing countries to include sustainable development in their economic policy and planning, and highlight how external factors hampered such efforts. It should also ensure that CSD fulfilled its mandate with regard to policy recommendations to address the shortfall in financial assistance and technology transfers. It was vital to close the implementation gap and development partners should ensure that long-standing commitments were fulfilled and make greater use of the Council to promote the implementation of the provisions of Agenda 21 in an integrated and coordinated manner.

Mr. Henczel (Observer for Poland), speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU), said that Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland, Albania, Serbia, the Republic of Moldova, and the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process aligned themselves with his statement.

Synergies between the two main themes of the forthcoming Rio+20 conference, a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development, needed to be exploited. The conference could mark the start of a profound, worldwide transition towards a green economy and provide a platform for launching much-needed reform of sustainable development governance. The EU was determined to promote the objectives of smart, inclusive and sustainable growth in line with its own 2020 strategy.

The establishment of a green-economy road map at the conference would help all countries, based on their own leadership and taking into account their specific circumstances and differences, to accelerate the transition towards the green economy. At the same time, cooperation with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders should be enhanced.

Better governance structures were needed to achieve sustainable development, eradicate poverty and help support the transition to the green economy. The EU would welcome proposals on how to strengthen the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD) and supported a balanced and interconnected approach to the three pillars of sustainable development.

The EU was committed to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and welcomed the political declaration that had been adopted at the 2010 high-level review meeting on the implementation of the strategy. The declaration stressed the importance of analytical work on the economic, social and environmental vulnerability of SIDS, so that their special needs could be taken into account in global action aimed at achieving development targets, as well as in any strategy that might follow the Mauritius Strategy in 2015.

The EU would work to ensure that the commitments set forth in the ministerial declaration, which had been adopted during the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, were translated into concrete action. The forum and the International Year of Forests, which stressed the importance of “forests for people”, had been a success and should inspire continued cooperation to ensure that forests remained on the sustainable development agenda.

The failure of the nineteenth session of CSD to produce agreement on a series of important policy recommendations, including the establishment of a 10-year framework programme on sustainable consumption and production, had been a great disappointment.

The 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancún had been a success for multilateralism but much remained to be done at the forthcoming conference in Durban, before which negotiations would be required to ensure that the Cancún Agreements could be made fully operational. The high-level meeting on desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, which would take place in September 2011, would be an important contribution to the tenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which would be held the following month in the Republic of Korea.

Ms. Adam (Observer for Maldives) welcomed the Report of the Secretary-General on integrated analysis of United Nations system support to small island developing States (E/2011/110) and said that it confirmed the need for profound reform of the system. SIDS received funds and benefited from the work of many United Nations bodies in a policy of mainstreaming that essentially required that those bodies include SIDS in their programmes. Those efforts were coordinated by the United Nations SIDS Unit. It was clear, however, that such mainstreaming and coordination were insufficient to address the

shortfall in international support for SIDS that had been revealed at the 2010 high-level review meeting on the subject.

A bottom-up approach was required based on the identification of: the particular needs and problems of SIDS with respect to other developing countries; cost-efficient and effective measures of international support tailored to those needs; and the most suitable institutional arrangement for delivering and monitoring the effectiveness of that support.

The SIDS Unit should be made responsible for all matters relating to small island developing States and consideration should be given to a more robust reform of the system.

Mr. Wang (China) said that the international community had made unremitting efforts in the previous two decades to implement the provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and that the concept of sustainable development had gained increasing acceptance. However, there had been no sign of a reversal in the deterioration of the global environment. At the same time, the economic and social development of developing countries continued to be hampered by their lack of financial resources. Such global problems as the financial crisis, climate change, and food and energy security represented a further challenge to sustainable development.

The failure of CSD to reach agreement at its nineteenth session in May 2011 on key areas of sustainable development such as production and consumption, mining, transport, waste management, and chemicals did not augur well for the Rio+20 conference. Views remained divided on the two central themes of the conference. A genuine desire for dialogue and the political will to honour commitments would be vital for success. At the same time, the autonomy of each country should be respected and their specific conditions taken into account. Special attention had to be paid to the needs of developing countries. China was prepared to demonstrate flexibility and pragmatism in order to achieve tangible results.

Mr. Shcherbak (Russian Federation) said that the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development should be strengthened, and expressed particular concern that the Commission, at the end of its nineteenth session, had not been in a position to issue a set of recommendations. The lack of outcome documents from that session had undermined the Commission's authority and its capacity to react fully and effectively to sustainable development issues at a crucial stage in the preparations for the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012. His delegation welcomed the results of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the Rio+20 Conference, and expressed its willingness to actively participate in all stages of the preparations for the Conference, including consideration of the different aspects of the green economy.

The Russian Federation was committed to implementing international agreements on providing cooperation to small island developing States (SIDS) to promote their sustainable development. Measures to implement the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States should focus on promoting the efforts of SIDS themselves.

Sustainable urbanization was an important element of socio-economic development, and was closely linked with poverty reduction and environmental protection. His delegation supported the efforts of UN-Habitat to reduce the social, economic and ecological consequences of modern-day crises, such as climate change and natural disasters, from the perspective of solving problems related to developing human settlements, eradicating urban poverty, promoting sustainable models of consumption and production and ensuring access to drinking water and basic sanitation services. The Russian Federation also recognized the important role played by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to strengthen Member States' potential to protect the environment through the sustainable use

of natural resources. Consideration should be given to the contribution that the green economy could make to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

The Russian Federation supported the activities of the United Nations Forum on Forests, which continued to lead international cooperation on forestry issues. His delegation welcomed the activities of the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the assistance it provided to States Members with regard to geographical and cartographical issues.

The Russian Federation supported the decision to establish a Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. It also welcomed the activities of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. All States should work to ensure that the recommendations of those Sub-Committees were taken into account in their domestic legislation.

Mr. Yehorov (Ukraine) said that his delegation acknowledged the leading role of the Commission on Sustainable Development and particularly regretted the failure of the nineteenth session of the Commission to produce an outcome document. He hoped that, given the importance of the topics concerned, the results of those discussions would eventually be issued as specific policy recommendations.

Ukraine welcomed the efforts to prepare for the Rio+20 Conference. In light of the importance of science and technologies for achieving sustainable development, developing countries and economies in transition must be ensured access to new green technologies. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the research into greening the economy led by UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in a number of countries, including Ukraine.

All countries were vulnerable to climate change, and each year the Ukrainian economy suffered losses as a result of environmental disasters. The Ukrainian Government therefore advocated strengthening the coordination of regional and international efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and find mechanisms to finance climate change adaptation measures. Ukraine was particularly interested in the flexibility mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol, which could be used to promote investment in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as promoting the development of environmentally sound technologies.

Ukraine was committed to achieving sustainable development, and had recently adopted legislation setting out a national environmental policy for the period until 2020. The new legislation aimed to bring Ukrainian environmental standards into line with European and international standards, and promoted a balanced approach to the environmental, economic and social pillars of sustainable development.

Mr. Popov (Observer for Belarus) expressed his delegation's concern that the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development had been unable to produce an outcome document, particularly given the importance of consolidating international cooperation for the promotion of sustainable development in the context of preparations for the Rio+20 Conference. Belarus considered that one of the most important topics to be discussed at the Conference was the provision of energy, particularly to developing and middle-income countries. An inventory of renewable energy technologies should be conducted, as well as an analysis of the knowledge, needs and prospective opportunities in all countries, in order to ensure effective, mutually beneficial cooperation.

Belarus had proposed the establishment of a mechanism, under the aegis of the United Nations, to increase access to technologies for developing the use of new and renewable energy sources by developing and middle-income countries. An international

laboratory for renewable energy had been established in Belarus, to train new researchers, facilitate exchanges of information and experience, and conduct research to assess the effectiveness of the use of clean technologies in specific climatic conditions. A programme of action should be drafted on training renewable energy specialists and on international cooperation between the Member States of the United Nations for drafting national strategies and updating legislation on issues related to renewable energy.

Turning to the question of assistance to States suffering from the imposition of sanctions, he said that Belarus was against one-sided sanctions, which constituted a means of exerting economic pressure on States and created a serious impediment to attaining the MDGs, threatened the interests of the population and constituted inhuman measures.

Mr. Sibille (Peru), speaking on the resolution on fertility, reproductive health and development contained in the annual report of the Commission on Population and Development (E/2011/25), said that Peru would consider the provisions of the resolution to the extent that they were compatible with its Constitution and international human rights obligations. In that spirit, and on the understanding that in Peru abortion was punishable under the Criminal Code, the Peruvian Government believed that the most effective means of avoiding abortion was through education on sexual and reproductive health, which enabled people to act in an informed and responsible manner, and to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

Ms. Romero (Mexico) expressed her Government's support for the policy-guidance activities of UN-Habitat in the area of sustainable urban development, with particular regard to rural-urban systems; the development of urban infrastructure; review and consolidation of legal frameworks; measures to strengthen institutions and financial services; training and transfer of technologies and best practices; and the reclamation of public space.

Mexico welcomed the emphasis in the draft decision on human settlements, on combating urban poverty and physical and social exclusion. It underlined in particular the importance of monitoring the Habitat Agenda so as to assess the progress made in respect of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) concerning access to drinking water, sanitation and improving living standards for slum-dwellers. The results of that monitoring would provide valuable inputs in the framing of more effective activities and policies in line with the objectives of UN-Habitat. The draft decision was in accord with the seventh MDG, on sustainable development, and would help to reduce the number of slums and improve living conditions, with support from the international community, and focus on urban planning with the participation of all stakeholders, providing slum-dwellers with equal access to public services and promoting sustainable urban and rural development.

Mr. Holtz (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that the new Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management would play an important role in coordinating activities related to geospatial information and the sharing of best practices among Member States and key stakeholders. His delegation particularly welcomed the constructive atmosphere during recent informal consultations on the resolution on the establishment of the new Committee, and commended the decision to establish, administer and organize the Committee using existing resources. The United Kingdom would engage constructively with the new Committee.

Mr. Quintanilla Román (Observer for Cuba) said that no substantive progress had been made in the preparations for the Rio+20 Conference. Developed countries had insisted on holding a discussion on the green economy, instead of a discussion on sustainable development. Cuba was not willing to make that concession. The inability of the Commission on Sustainable Development to adopt an outcome document at the end of its

nineteenth session was a demonstration of the lack of political will of developed countries that had abandoned the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Cuba was disappointed by the attitude of the developed countries, and remained dedicated to fulfilling its international commitments with regard to sustainable development.

Mr. Kang Yong-Koo (Republic of Korea) said that as the host of the first United Nations High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, to be held in October 2011, the Republic of Korea welcomed the draft resolution on the Committee of Experts on Geospatial Information Management (E/2011/L.15). Geospatial information could be useful in development cooperation, and in addressing humanitarian and environmental challenges.

(a) Sustainable development

The President invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its nineteenth session (E/2011/29).

The draft decision was adopted.

The President invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Adoption of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its nineteenth session”, also contained in chapter I, section A, of document E/2011/29.

The draft decision was adopted.

The President said that consultations on the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its thirteenth session (E/2011/33) had concluded, and that the Council had before it a draft resolution, entitled “Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its thirteenth session” (E/2011/L.34), submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Koterec of Slovakia. The Council would take action on the draft resolution at the forty-seventh meeting of the current session.

Ms. Adam (Observer for Maldives) introduced the draft resolution entitled “Review of United Nations support for small island developing States”, submitted in document E/2011/L.52.

The President announced that Côte d’Ivoire, Israel, Jordan, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Portugal, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had become sponsors of the draft resolution, on which action would be taken later.

(c) Statistics

The President invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-second session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-third session of the Commission”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-second session (E/2011/24).

The draft decision was adopted.

(d) Human settlements

Mr. Suárez Salvia (Argentina), introducing on behalf of the Group of 77 and China the draft resolution entitled “Human settlements”, submitted in document E/2011/L.20, said that the Group looked forward to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

The draft resolution was adopted.

The President drew attention to the draft resolution submitted in document E/2011/L.48, on which action would be taken later.

(e) Environment

The President drew attention to the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session (A/66/25) and proposed that the Council should take note of it.

It was so decided.

(f) Population and development

The President invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fourth session and provisional agenda for its forty-fifth session”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fourth session (E/2011/25).

The draft decision was adopted.

(g) Public administration and development

The President drew attention to the draft resolution entitled “Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its tenth session”, contained in chapter I of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its ninth session (E/2011/44) and to the draft decision entitled “Venue and dates of and provisional agenda for the eleventh session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration”, submitted in document E/2011/L.24. Action on those draft proposals would be taken later.

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

The President drew attention to the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its sixth session (E/2010/45).

Mr. Suárez Salvia (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution entitled “Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters”, submitted in document E/2011/L.13.

The President drew attention to the draft resolution submitted in document E/2011/L.26, following informal consultations on the text submitted by the Group of 77 and China, and to the draft decision entitled “Dates and draft agenda for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters”, submitted in document E/2011/L.42. Action on those draft resolutions and that draft decision would be taken later.

(i) United Nations Forum on Forests

The President drew attention to the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its ninth session (E/2011/42). He invited the Council to take action on draft decision I entitled “Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Forests”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

The draft decision was adopted.

The President invited the Council to take action on draft decision II entitled “Dates and venue for the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

Ms. De Laurentis (Secretary of the Council) read out an oral statement by the Secretariat on the programme budget implications of the draft decision. It recalled that the Government of Turkey was required to defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved as a result of the change of venue of the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to Istanbul (Turkey), in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243. Arrangements for the tenth session would be negotiated within the framework agreement signed on 23 February 2011 between the United Nations and the Republic of Turkey. Accordingly the decisions of the Forum as contained in document E/2011/42 with respect to the dates and venue for the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests entailed no financial implications for the biennium 2012–2013.

The President said that, following informal consultations on the draft decision, the words “and accepts” should be inserted after the word “welcomes” and the words “the dates to be determined at a later stage” should be replaced with “to be held from 8 to 19 April 2013”.

The draft decision, as orally revised, was adopted.

The President invited the Council to take action on draft decision III entitled “Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its ninth session and provisional agenda for its tenth session”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

The draft decision was adopted.

(j) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

The President said that no advance documentation had been submitted under agenda item 13 (j) and that no draft proposal was before the Council. He drew attention to the annotations contained in the Council’s agenda under that agenda item, which provided the background and rationale for its continued inclusion in the agenda.

(k) Cartography

The President drew attention to the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-sixth session (E/2011/119). He invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its twenty-sixth session, and the provisional agenda and dates for the twenty-seventh session, and the dates for the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names”, submitted in document E/2011/119.

The draft decision was adopted.

Mr. Suárez Salvia (Argentina), introducing on behalf of the Group of 77 and China the draft resolution entitled “Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management”, submitted in document E/2011/L.15, said that the Group looked forward to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

The President drew attention to a consensus text under that sub-item submitted in document E/2011/L.53. Action on the draft resolutions would be taken later.

(m) Transport of dangerous goods

The President drew attention to the draft resolution entitled “Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally

Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals”, submitted in document E/2011/L.22, on which action would be taken later.

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (*continued*)

Introduction of draft resolution entitled “Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan” (E/2011/L.47)

Mr. Suárez Salvia (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and Palestine, introduced draft resolution E/2011/L.47.

The President announced that Senegal and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had become sponsors of the draft resolution. Action on the draft resolution would be taken later.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.