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#### Summary record of the 37th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 23 July 2019, at 3 p.m.

*President:* Ms. Juul (Vice-President) . . . . . (Norway)

## Contents

Agenda item 14: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Agenda item 16: 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

Agenda item 17: Non-governmental organizations (*continued*)

Agenda item 15: Regional cooperation

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

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (*continued*)

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

(b) Proposed programme budget for 2020

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*In the absence of Ms. King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Ms. Juul (Norway), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Agenda item 14: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/74/80 and A/74/89-E/2019/73; E/2019/61; E/2019/L.27)**

1. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Observer for Cuba), Vice-Chair, Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Special Committee), drawing attention to the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/74/80) and to the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council contained in document E/2019/61, said that the Special Committee attached great importance to the assistance and support provided to the Non-Self-Governing Territories under its purview by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations. In line with the General Assembly's request in resolution 73/105, she called on those entities to intensify their engagement with the work of the Special Committee, strengthen existing support measures and formulate appropriate assistance programmes for the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, to accelerate their economic and social progress.

*Draft resolution E/2019/L.27: Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations*

2. **The President** said that a recorded vote had been requested. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

3. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Observer for Cuba), Vice-Chair, Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Special Committee), introduced the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors.

4. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/2019/L.27.*

*In favour:*

Angola, Belarus, Benin, Cambodia, Chad, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

Andorra, Armenia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

5. *Draft resolution E/2019/L.27 was adopted by 26 votes to none, with 22 abstentions.*

6. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said his country agreed in principle that United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies could provide useful support to territories that were not members of the Organization. However, the domestic laws and policies of a territory's administering Power determined whether such support was allowed, and the language in the draft resolution was inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States of America, which gave the Federal Government sole authority for the conduct of foreign relations. Consequently, his delegation could not support the draft resolution as it currently stood and had abstained from voting.

**Agenda item 16: 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 (A/74/88-E/2019/72; E/2019/L.25 and E/2019/L.26)**

7. **Mr. Alami** (Director, Emerging and Conflict-related Issues Division, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)), introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the 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 of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/74/88-E/2019/72), said that over the previous two years Israel had taken administrative measures to consolidate its control over the Occupied Palestinian Territory, support new settlements and apply Israeli

jurisdiction in new domains. A discriminatory dual legal system under which Israelis and Palestinians were treated differently was still in place, and discriminatory planning and zoning policies in Area C and the West Bank left Palestinians with no choice but to build homes without Israeli permits, making them vulnerable to demolition and displacement.

8. One of the key factors behind the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in 2018 had been the massive rise in Palestinian casualties caused by both Israeli military and security forces and Israeli settlers. Despite the increase in settler violence against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank, Israel had ended the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron, raising further concern over the protection of Palestinians, particularly children.

9. The excessive use of administrative detention of Palestinians was also a matter of concern, and continuous reports had documented the ill-treatment and torture of detainees, especially women and children. A number of practices employed against child detainees had been condemned by human rights organizations.

10. Israeli practices had created a coercive environment that propelled Palestinians to leave Area C and East Jerusalem, which could amount to forcible transfer. The demolition and seizure of Palestinian homes and other properties, directly resulting in displacement, had increased in 2018. Some of those demolitions were punitive, targeting the families of Palestinians suspected of attacks, which could amount to collective punishment. In Area C, demolition orders had been issued against 13,000 Palestinian-owned structures and at least one third of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem were under immediate risk of demolition. Furthermore, even though Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory were illegal and considered a major obstacle to peace, construction had increased in 2018 as the settlement population continued to grow.

11. The blockade of Gaza, the most severe of the mobility restrictions imposed on Palestinians, was the main reason for the deteriorating social and economic conditions and the critical humanitarian crisis. In the West Bank, a complex system of physical and administrative obstacles impeded Palestinians' access to services and land, obstructed social and economic activities and hindered the ability of organizations to deliver aid. Other policies and practices, particularly those that had a negative impact on the environment and natural resources, further exacerbated Palestinian living conditions. More than one fifth of Palestinians suffered from a lack of access to water or from poor water quality. In the West Bank, they were forced to buy water

from Israeli companies owing to discriminatory water allocation and restrictions on infrastructure development. In Gaza, 97 per cent of aquifer water was unfit for human consumption, and the blockade and lack of electricity had left 90 per cent of the population without access to safe drinking water through the public water network.

12. The inability to repair infrastructure in Gaza had exacerbated pollution, with untreated sewage being pumped into the sea. In the West Bank, Israeli-operated waste treatment facilities had not taken proper precautions to protect the land and populations of nearby Palestinian villages. Palestinian agriculture had also been jeopardized by Israeli practices, which included the uprooting of trees, discriminatory water allocation and the denial of access to farming land in the West Bank. In Gaza, agricultural production was damaged by the Israeli practice of spraying herbicides along the border fence.

13. The physical fragmentation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory caused by a system of complex restrictions on movement and access imposed by the Israeli military had resulted in the emergence of different economies in Gaza and the West Bank, damaging peace and development prospects and causing the Palestinians' living conditions to deteriorate. Nearly half of the Palestinian population was in need of humanitarian assistance. The economy continued to be negatively affected by occupation-related measures, resulting in low levels of investment, deindustrialization and a decline in economic growth.

14. The 2 million inhabitants of Gaza were suffering from the blockade and the destruction resulting from recurring Israeli military operations. The contribution of Gaza to the Palestinian economy remained in decline and its gross domestic product continued to contract, while ongoing de-development was evident in the humanitarian crisis, as well as in the high unemployment rates in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a whole. More than half of Gazans lived under the poverty line and 33 per cent lived in deep poverty. Food insecurity affected one third of the population of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and 68 per cent of Gazan households.

15. The health system in Gaza was on the verge of collapse. Disease and mental health disorders were spreading and casualty rates remained high, while the limited supply of electricity put the lives of patients in hospitals and clinics at risk. In the West Bank, legislative and physical fragmentation created barriers to the right to health.

16. The measures taken by Israel to occupy and annex the Syrian Golan were illegal and considered null and

void. Discriminatory policies encouraged Israeli settlement while restricting the ability of Syrians to develop their agricultural sector, find employment and access their own natural resources. The Syrian agricultural sector continued to deteriorate, prospects for youth employment were ever more limited and the threat of home demolition and displacement continued to loom.

17. The protracted Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory and the Syrian Golan had multilayered, long-term cumulative consequences for the Palestinian and Syrian populations living under occupation. Under the conditions described, it would be almost impossible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially as the resulting humanitarian crisis diverted aid from development to relief.

18. **Mr. Al-Mouallimi** (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, said that the report ([A/74/88-E/2019/72](#)) reaffirmed the serious harm sustained by the Palestinian people and the Syrian Arabs in the occupied Syrian Golan owing to the continued egregious violations of their basic rights by Israel. As an administering Power, Israel had turned a blind eye to many United Nations resolutions and international agreements, including the Geneva Conventions.

19. Such violations of rights, resolutions and international agreements included the application of discriminatory land and water policies that were intended to drive people away from their land; the imposition of restrictions on the movement of Palestinians; the use of indiscriminate extreme force by Israeli forces against women and the elderly, and attacks by Israeli settlers; the administrative detention of thousands of Palestinians, including the detention and torture of children who were also denied access to medical care; threats of harm to the children of detained Palestinian mothers in order to obtain confessions; and the prevention of Palestinian ambulance workers from fulfilling their duties.

20. ESCWA remained engaged in international efforts to guarantee the right to development for all, and the international community had agreed that development could never be sustainable unless it was inclusive and equitable. The Palestinian and Arab populations living under occupation needed the international community to prevent the Israeli occupation authorities from continuing with their egregious practices. More and more violations had occurred in recent days, with an increased number of Palestinian houses being demolished in East Jerusalem. There was no justification for such violations, especially in the light

of the international consensus regarding the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent State. Furthermore, there was no reason for the continuation of the conflict given that Arab countries had reaffirmed their willingness to achieve a comprehensive peace with Israel, based on the Arab Peace Initiative and international legitimacy resolutions.

21. **Ms. Shurbaji** (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic), said that, while her delegation welcomed the relative improvement in the format of the report ([A/74/88-E/2019/72](#)), any effective monitoring of Israeli violations in the occupied Syrian Golan that sought to study the economic and social repercussions of the occupation on living conditions required methodological consistency and should state clearly the legal stance of the United Nations, based on Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

22. The report reaffirmed the discriminatory nature of the land, housing and development policies adopted by the Israeli occupying authorities against Syrian people in the occupied Syrian Golan. The Israeli occupying authorities had sought to consolidate the occupation through a number of illegal measures, including the confiscation and seizure of land from Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan under the pretext of a “wind-farm” project, which would power illegal Israeli settlements. Her Government had sent a letter to the President of the Security Council ([S/2018/1158](#)) containing information about that project and its negative repercussions on Syrian people and land. Such practices were in violation of international resolutions and represented a continuation of the Israeli Government’s discriminatory and racist policies, which aimed to exploit and deplete the natural resources of the Syrian people.

23. Her Government had also sent a letter to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([A/73/879](#)) concerning the surveying of Syrian agricultural lands by the Israeli occupying authorities with a view to registering those lands and issuing Israeli title deeds, in violation of Security Council resolution [497 \(1981\)](#), which stated that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights was null and void and without international legal effect.

24. The ESCWA report failed to mention both the inhumane conditions experienced by prisoners in Israeli detention facilities and the Syrian boycott of the so-called local elections organized by the Israeli occupying authorities. It was incumbent on the international community to support steps to end the

occupation and halt other illegal practices, based on the relevant international resolutions.

25. The root causes of humanitarian crises that diverted resources from development to relief must be addressed. The occupation of the Syrian Golan, which threatened regional and global peace and stability, must be ended; otherwise, the goal of “leaving no one behind” would not be achieved and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would not be implemented.

26. **Ms. Abdelhady-Nasser** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, was rapidly declining. The report documented the many serious economic and social repercussions of the brutal, illegitimate Israeli occupation, which had gravely affected the living conditions of the Palestinian people, caused socioeconomic, humanitarian and human devastation, and undermined sustainable development efforts, despite the assistance provided by the international community. The blockade had crippled economic growth through sharp increases in unemployment and poverty levels, and had caused widespread dependence on food aid.

27. The illegal Israeli occupation violated all principles of international law and entailed intentional acts such as the killing and injury of innocent children, women, men and elderly persons; theft and colonization of another people’s land; construction and expansion of illegal settlements; destruction of homes and properties; forced displacement and dispossession of thousands of civilians; imprisonment and detention of more than 5,000 Palestinians, including women and children, under inhumane conditions; destruction of livelihoods; desecration and vandalism of holy sites, particularly in Occupied East Jerusalem; exploitation of natural resources; and segregation, isolation and obstruction of Palestinian movement by numerous means, including annexation, an apartheid wall, a permit regime, hundreds of checkpoints and the systematic collective punishment of the entire Palestinian civilian population.

28. Her delegation appealed to the international community for immediate collective action to resolve the question of Palestine in line with international law and United Nations resolutions because the situation was unsustainable and required urgent measures to stem further deterioration and desperation. As well as providing international aid to the Palestinian people to end the deplorable socioeconomic conditions that they endured, the international community must hold Israel accountable for its crimes against the Palestinian people

29. That was essential in order for Palestine to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals, which could never

truly be achieved under occupation. Her delegation called for the continued support of all concerned Member States and specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations to assist the Palestinian people to achieve their legitimate national aspirations and live in an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in peaceful coexistence with Israel based on the pre-1967 borders. She urged all members of the Council to support the draft resolution, which contributed to upholding international law and the economic and social rights of the Palestinian people.

30. **Ms. Fisher-Tsin** (Observer for Israel) said that the report was an embarrassment and liability to the United Nations because it was flawed, provided no new or constructive information and was drafted with the intention of masking critical details. The so-called “Great March of Return”, described so positively in the report, was, in fact, nothing more than the creation of a wall of human shields from behind whose cover terrorists could attack Israel with bullets, Molotov cocktails and burning kites. Major donors to the United Nations system should be aware that their resources were being used to fund lies. In fact, a senior Hamas official had admitted that the public was being deceived by talk of “peaceful resistance” and a Hamas member had urged Palestinians abroad to kill Jews around the world.

31. The word “rocket” was conspicuously absent from the report even though hundreds of rockets had been launched into Israel from Gaza over the past year. No other Member State facing such assaults would be willing to countenance a report which overlooked their existence. The report’s extreme bias promoted further use of Palestinian civilians as human shields, encouraged terrorists to continue launching rockets into Israel and sent the message that political points were more important than the well-being of all sides. The fundamental approach of ESCWA, which would only prolong the abuse and neglect of Palestinian citizens by their own leadership, was a calculated effort to distract from the mass corruption, incompetence and lack of vision of the Palestinian leadership. A failure by the Council to object to the bias would encourage the drafting of further similar reports.

*Draft resolution E/2019/L.25: Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

32. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for the State of Palestine), introducing draft resolution [E/2019/L.25](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group looked forward to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

33. **The President** said that a recorded vote had been requested. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

34. **Mr. Baror** (Observer for Israel), making a general statement before the voting, said that just as the ESCWA report portrayed a one-sided narrative with no context and bearing little relation to reality on the ground, draft resolution [E/2019/L.25](#) blamed all the problems of Palestinian women, many of which were doubtless genuine, on Israel rather than on Palestinian society and culture. For years, Israeli officials had tried to work with the Palestinian authorities to improve the situation in the West Bank, in environmental and other fields. Such efforts, however, had been completely ignored by their Palestinian counterparts in keeping with a broad paradigm of refusal by the Palestinian leadership to cooperate with Israeli authorities, while making no efforts to improve the lives of Palestinians themselves. Any support for the draft resolution would endorse a pattern of behaviour of avoiding responsibility, even for issues that were wholly domestic and required only the smallest of steps. He urged delegations to reject the draft resolution in order to make it clear that the issues faced by Palestinians would be fixed only when the Palestinians were willing to take responsibility for their own challenges.

*Statements made in explanation of vote before the voting*

35. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America), said that his delegation had long been concerned at the inclusion of political elements and one-sided condemnation in the annual draft resolution on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, which was usually considered by the Commission on the Status of Women. Such elements were unhelpful and detracted from the real challenges at hand. The humanitarian situation in Gaza remained worrying, including in view of reports that the Hamas authorities had taken steps to limit women's abilities to appear in public and move freely. The launch of a women's television channel had reportedly been blocked and women continued to suffer punishment for so-called "ethical" crimes. While the United States remained committed to achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace agreement, politicized efforts in international and multilateral forums would do nothing to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Any peace settlement must ultimately be the product of direct negotiations between the parties.

36. **Mr. Monteiro** (Brazil) said that his delegation was deeply concerned about the precarious social and economic conditions in Palestine, which disproportionately affected women and girls, especially

in the Gaza Strip. Urgent measures must be taken to guarantee respect for the human rights of all women and girls in Palestine. Brazil reaffirmed its commitment to the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and welcomed the references to those instruments in the text of the draft resolution. His Government wished to emphasize the key role of women in achieving, sustaining and promoting international peace and security, especially in the Middle East, and welcomed the adoption by Palestine of a national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#).

37. In certain substantive respects, however, the draft resolution was imbalanced and partial. It addressed the conditions of Palestinian women in a selective way and placed blame exclusively on Israel for the violation of their human rights. His delegation was concerned that, by focusing on only some of the victims and perpetuating an incomplete portrayal of the reality on the ground, the draft resolution was detrimental to a constructive and comprehensive approach and did not contribute to peace and mutual understanding in the region. His delegation would therefore abstain from the voting. It hoped that future initiatives would help to promote sustainable political solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Brazil would continue to uphold women's rights in an objective, balanced and non-selective way.

38. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution [E/2019/L.25](#).*

*In favour:*

Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Cambodia, Chad, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

*Against:*

Canada, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Brazil, Cameroon, Germany, Jamaica, Mexico, Romania, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

39. *Draft resolution E/2019/L.25 was adopted by 40 votes to 2, with 9 abstentions.*

40. **Mr. McDonald** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation welcomed the language in the draft resolution reaffirming Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and further resolutions on women and peace and security. It fully supported the emphasis placed on the vital role of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, as well as on the importance of efforts to end violence and discrimination and ensure the safety and meaningful participation of women and girls everywhere, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The fact that the Israeli occupation had a detrimental impact on the status of men and women in the Occupied Palestinian Territories was not in doubt. His delegation appreciated the constructive response of the Palestinian delegation to the concerns of the European Union and the United Kingdom, including by making amendments to the text. Those positive changes had allowed his delegation to abstain in the voting rather than voting against the draft resolution. It had been unable to vote in favour not because of the substance of the text, which it supported, but rather because of certain important omissions, such as the failure to address the actions of all authorities that contributed to the situation of women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The text highlighted the failures of Israel to live up to its obligations but did not mention Hamas in Gaza or make any direct reference to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. His delegation's abstention did not mean that it would fail to voice concerns about Israel when the lives and livelihoods of Palestinian women and girls were affected; however, Member States must address those matters in an objective, comprehensive fashion. The United Kingdom remained committed to supporting the creation of a sovereign, independent and viable Palestinian State living side by side with Israel. A lasting and negotiated settlement that ended the occupation and delivered peace, rights and security for both Palestinian and Israeli women alike was long overdue. His Government remained committed to making progress towards that goal.

*Draft resolution E/2019/L.26: 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*

41. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for the State of Palestine) introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group looked forward to its adoption by consensus, in the hope that it would contribute to the alleviation of the socioeconomic and

social hardships of the Palestinian and Syrian civilians living under Israeli occupation and ultimately contribute to international efforts to bring an end to the injustice.

42. **The President** said that a recorded vote had been requested. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

43. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Turkey had joined the sponsors.

44. **Ms. Fisher-Tsin** (Observer for Israel), making a general statement before the voting, said that, while the draft resolution highlighted the poor conditions existing in the Gaza Strip, it made no mention whatsoever of the terrorist organization Hamas, which controlled Gaza through violence, repression, the denial of basic human rights and the misuse of economic resources. The draft resolution was not intended to put forward any constructive solutions but rather to widen the gap between the parties and shield the Palestinian authorities from their responsibility to work towards solving the challenges they faced. By voting against the draft resolution, the Council could send a message to the Palestinian authorities that the time had come to assume the difficult challenges of leadership.

*Statements made in explanation of vote before the voting*

45. **Mr. El Eid** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union would support the draft resolution with the understanding that the use of the term "Palestine" could not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and was without prejudice to the individual positions of the States members of the European Union on that issue and, consequently, on the question of validity of an accession to the conventions and treaties mentioned therein. Moreover, the European Union had not expressed a legal qualification with respect to the term "forced displacement" in the draft resolution and had not expressed itself on the use of certain legal terms therein. In addition, the European Union and its member States understood the term "Palestinian Government" to refer to the Palestinian Authority.

46. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that his delegation was disappointed once again at the presentation of a biased and one-sided draft resolution, which was virtually identical to those previously considered by the Council. Such resolutions did nothing to promote Israeli-Palestinian peace and merely served to enflame the conflict. The United States remained deeply concerned at the bias against Israel that existed within ESCWA. The resolution and the accompanying report were unbalanced and unfairly singled out Israel

in a forum that was not intended to be politicized. The United States shared with many other members of the international community the goal of a lasting and comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace, which could be achieved only through direct negotiations. It stood ready to help promote economic security and would work with all parties to improve conditions and promote the cause of peace. Resolutions such as the one currently before the Council did nothing to improve the situation. His Government had no choice but to vote against it.

47. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/2019/L.26.*

*In favour:*

Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

*Against:*

Canada, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Brazil, Cameroon, Togo, Ukraine.

48. *Draft resolution E/2019/L.26 was adopted by 45 votes to 2, with 4 abstentions.*

49. **Mr. Monteiro** (Brazil) said that his delegation, which had abstained in the voting, acknowledged the hardship and difficult living conditions faced by Palestinians as well as by part of the Arab population living in the Golan Heights. The situation should be examined using objective criteria and the broader perspective of local political realities. Furthermore, Brazil recognized the applicability of the Geneva Conventions to the situation at hand. The draft resolution lacked proper balance as it singled out Israel and unnecessarily politicized the debate on the matter. His delegation supported bolder and more innovative diplomatic initiatives as the best way to find a lasting and just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

50. **Mr. Mansour** (Observer for the State of Palestine), said that he wished to thank all delegations that had voted in favour of draft resolutions E/2019/L.25 and E/2019/L.26, thereby confirming their commitment to international law, human rights, sustainable development and a just and lasting peace. The dire

economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people were a result of the occupation. The Palestinian nation had unbelievable potential that, if unleashed by freedom and independence, would change the lives of millions of Palestinians. The ensuing peace would change the entire region for the better. Until the Palestinian people enjoyed freedom, sovereignty, control over its land and access to its resources, the continued support and assistance of the international community would be essential.

51. The votes in favour of the two draft resolutions were a sign of solidarity with all Palestinian women and children, regardless of their circumstances. His Government recognized the need to meet its own obligations in relation to the rights of women, as well as its own shortcomings. The Palestinian women's movement was one of the oldest in the world. For nearly a century, Palestinian women had fought for the rights of their people, leading an ongoing national and social struggle. They deserved the support of Member States and were entitled to protection and assistance.

**Agenda item 17: Non-governmental organizations**  
(continued) (E/2019/32 (Part II); E/2019/L.22)

*Draft decision E/2019/L.22: Applications of the non-governmental organizations Association Against Women Export, West Africa Coalition for Indigenous People's Rights and Women in Politics Forum for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.*

52. **Mr. Nze** (Observer for Nigeria), introducing the draft decision, said that his Government provided considerable support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), many of which had been granted consultative status with the Council. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, during its 2019 resumed session, had duly considered the applications of 20 non-governmental organizations that, according to the information submitted, were headquartered in Nigeria. However, the competent Nigerian authorities had subsequently discovered that the three NGOs named in the draft decision were not registered with the Nigerian Corporate Affairs Commission and thus did not have the appropriate legal status to operate in Nigeria. It was a matter of particular concern that two of the three NGOs had actually submitted certificates of incorporation that did not match the names under which they were being considered for consultative status by the Committee, while the third had submitted only a certificate of registration with a subnational ministry. It was his delegation's duty to flag those discrepancies and irregularities in the interests of the due diligence that must accompany the process of granting consultative

status. The Council should therefore decide to return the three applications for further consideration by the Committee, which was best placed to conduct the necessary due diligence. Nigeria stood ready to assist the Committee in ascertaining the true status of the three NGOs. His delegation urged all member States to support the draft decision in order to uphold the integrity of the process of granting consultative status.

53. **The President** said that a recorded vote had been requested. The draft decision had no programme budget implications.

54. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that further review of the applications was unwarranted. His delegation had requested a recorded vote and would vote against the draft decision. The United States was a strong supporter of the participation of civil society in the United Nations system. As a long-serving member of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, it took seriously its role in the rigorous assessment of whether NGOs met the criteria for consultative status as set out in Council resolution 1996/31. Convinced that the Committee was thorough and complete in its vetting and that the Council therefore had sufficient information to make an informed decision on a given application, it had previously raised serious concerns about the Council returning NGO applications to the Committee for further review. The three organizations had been reviewed by the Committee at its 2019 resumed session and had been recommended for consultative status by consensus. The criteria for consultative status set forth in Council resolution 1996/31 did not require registration of an NGO by a national authority. It was crucial to follow the rules and procedures established in that resolution; to do otherwise would be to subject the Committee and the Council to an incoherent process that lacked transparency. While applications could exceptionally be reconsidered, such reconsideration must be based on new information not previously available and established rules and procedures. That was not the case with those three organizations, since member States had been provided with no new information or sufficient justification as to why they should be further scrutinized. Since the three organizations clearly met the criteria for consultative status with the Council and their applications had been reviewed according to established procedures, his delegation did not support their arbitrary selection for further review by the Committee. It called on all Council members that supported the participation of civil society in the work of the United Nations to vote against the draft decision.

55. *A recorded vote was taken on draft decision E/2019/L.22.*

*In favour:*

Angola, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Benin, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Togo, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

*Against:*

Andorra, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

El Salvador, Mexico, Turkey, Uruguay.

56. *Draft decision E/2019/L.22 was adopted by 27 votes to 19, with 4 abstentions.*

*Action on the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2019 resumed session (E/2019/32 (Part II))*

57. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions contained in chapter I of the report.

*Draft decision I: Applications for consultative status, requests for reclassification and requests for a change of name and quadrennial reports received from non-governmental organizations*

58. *Draft decision I, as amended by the adoption of draft decision E/2019/L.22, was adopted.*

*Draft decision II: Withdrawal of consultative status of the non-governmental organization Global Spatial Data Infrastructure.*

*Draft decision III: Suspension of the consultative status of non-governmental organizations with outstanding quadrennial reports, pursuant to Council resolution 2008/4*

*Draft decision IV: Reinstatement of the consultative status of non-governmental organizations that submitted outstanding quadrennial reports, pursuant to Council resolution 2008/4*

*Draft decision V: Withdrawal of the consultative status of non-governmental organizations, pursuant to Council resolution 2008/4*

*Draft decision VI: Dates and provisional agenda of the 2020 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations*

*Draft decision VII: Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2019 resumed session*

59. *Draft decisions II, III, IV, V, VI and VII were adopted.*

60. **Ms. Stepanyan** (Armenia) said that, while her delegation had joined the consensus on the adoption of the recommendations contained in the Committee's report (E/2019/32 (Part II)), it wished to draw attention to the practices of one State member of the Committee in targeting Armenian diaspora organizations. Since 2013, the application of Congrès national des Arméniens occidentaux, a non-governmental organization registered in France, had been deferred to the following session as a result of continuous questioning and apparent procrastination tactics by one delegation. Her delegation fully recognized and respected the right of every member State to pose questions to NGOs applying for consultative status with the Council and attached great importance to open and constructive dialogue between member States and civil society. The Chair of Congrès national des Arméniens occidentaux had travelled to New York to take part in the Committee's 2019 resumed session and, in response to a series of questions mostly posed by Turkey, had described in detail the aims, priorities and activities of the organization. However, it was obvious that additional enquiries by Turkey on matters to which the NGO had already provided written replies in previous sessions had been made with the sole aim of deferring the application. The States elected to serve as members of the Committee had a special responsibility to adhere to the values and principles of the United Nations, especially in relation to engagement with civil society organizations. The delegation of Turkey should refrain from undue politicization of every diaspora organization with Armenian affiliation. Member States had committed to cooperating with civil society organizations rather than creating barriers that could undermine the mandate and credibility of the Committee.

**Agenda item 15: Regional cooperation** (E/2019/15, E/2019/15/Add.1 E/2019/15/Add.2, E/2019/16, E/2019/17, E/2019/18, E/2019/19 and E/2019/20)

61. **Mr. Nour** (Director of the Regional Commissions New York Office), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the

economic, social and related fields (E/2019/15, E/2019/15/Add.1 and E/2019/15/Add.2), said that the conclusion of the first cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and the Council's adoption of draft resolution E/2019/L.21 on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, were of particular importance from the regional commissions' perspective. The report before the Council was intended to provide relevant insights from the regional commissions on those two events.

62. The first part of the report highlighted the support provided by the regional commissions to facilitate national implementation and acceleration of the 2030 Agenda, as well as describing the steps taken by the regional commissions to align their programmes of work and conference structures with the 2030 Agenda. The regional forums for sustainable development served as well-established regional platforms for the support and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, peer learning, follow-up and review at the regional level. The regional commissions had also established partnerships in support of the 2030 Agenda, details of which were provided in the report.

63. The second part of the report covered regional and interregional cooperation, addressing issues related to the progress of the United Nations development system reform and coherence at the regional level. The Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Europe had held their commission sessions in 2019, at which they had discussed policy issues relating to their regions and adopted a number of resolutions and decisions that were presented in the two addendums to the report (E/2019/15/Add.1 and E/2019/15/Add.2), for action by the Council. The report highlighted measures to strengthen the country-regional nexus, particularly through closer engagement among regional commissions and resident coordinators. With regard to interregional cooperation, the regional commissions had been working closely together to cross-fertilize best policy practices. Frequent meetings among the executive secretaries of the regional commissions had resulted in cooperation in such areas as regional economic integration, illicit financial flows, road safety and public-private partnerships for the 2030 Agenda.

64. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that his delegation commended the Economic Commission for Europe on its regional implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. However, it was

concerned that the global scale of that Convention would reduce overall effectiveness of the primary regional mandate of the Commission, by overextending its limited resources. The Council and the Commission should build on their success within existing mandates and budgets of the United Nations system, while keeping in mind the importance of system reforms to improve efficiencies and to reduce costs.

*Action on the recommendations contained in the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2019/15/Add.1)*

65. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft resolutions contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the first addendum to the report (E/2019/15/Add.1). Action on the draft resolution contained in the second addendum (E/2019/15/Add.2) would be taken the following day.

#### *Section A*

*Draft resolution: Developing the work of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development*

#### *Section B*

*Draft resolution: Review of the intergovernmental structure of the Economic Commission for Africa pursuant to Commission resolutions 943 (XLIX) and 957 (LI)*

66. *The draft resolutions were adopted.*

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

#### **(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/2019/5, E/2019/77 and E/2019/82; E/2019/L.20)**

*Draft decision E/2019/L.20: Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

67. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

68. **Mr. Sacco** (Malta), also speaking on behalf of Burkina Faso and Iceland, introduced draft decision E/2019/L.20. He said that the three delegations, as firm believers in multilateral approaches to international issues, and in view of the rising number of refugees both in their countries and globally, considered that membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was an appropriate step to take.

69. *Draft decision E/2019/L.20 was adopted.*

### **Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions (continued)**

#### **(a) Reports of coordination bodies (A/74/16)**

70. **The President** said that she took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its fifty-ninth session (A/74/16).

71. *It was so decided.*

#### **(b) Proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6)**

72. The President said that she took it that the Council wished to take note of the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6).

73. *It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.*