



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 October 2021

Original: English

2021 session

23 July 2020–22 July 2021

July management segment

Summary record of the 13th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 22 July 2021, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Kelapile (Vice-President) (Botswana)

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Conclusion of the management segment and the 2021 session of the Council

In the absence of Mr. Akram (Pakistan), Mr. Kelapile (Botswana), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

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

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice
(continued) (E/2021/30 and E/2021/74)

1. **Ms. De Meo** (Director of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute), introducing the reports of the Board of Trustees on the major activities of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute for 2020 and 2021, transmitted to the Council in document E/2021/74, said that it was the first time that Institute had formally briefed the Council. While the Institute intended to continue to report to the Council on substantive matters through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, she believed that annual briefings by the Director to the Council would be a valuable addition.

2. Throughout the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Institute had continued to develop, test and promote innovative measures in the field of criminal justice and crime prevention. It had launched nine specialized public reports and had organized an unprecedented number of virtual capacity-building and knowledge-development activities, with participation far exceeding that of previous years. All its work had furthered progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. The Institute had addressed the activities of terrorist, violent extremist and organized criminal groups seeking to capitalize on the destabilizing effects of the pandemic, including the increased use of social media by violent non-State actors, in order to reinforce extremist narratives and recruitment strategies. It had worked with local communities and civil society to prevent and counter the rise of violent extremism, with a focus on youth and vulnerable groups. By analysing data on effective community resilience strategies from the Sahel-Maghreb region, it had identified ways to support Member States in the development of policies to counter violent extremism. It had also raised global awareness on how sport could be used to promote peace, justice and inclusion.

3. Since the nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism continued to undermine peace and stability, the Institute had expanded its capacity-building to reinforce border security and build resilience, giving training courses in Albania and

Kenya. It had also worked closely with Member States in the Caucasus, Eastern Europe and North Africa to identify country-specific policies for the recovery of illicit assets and their allocation to development priorities, such as health care and education. It had considered how advances in science and technology could be used to strengthen criminal justice systems, particularly through work done by its Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. In 2020, the Institute had celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative, which brought together 62 Member States. In the Middle East, Black Sea and Southeast Asia, the Institute had trained law enforcement officers on operations to combat radiological and nuclear trafficking, which was critical to preventing terrorists from employing weapons of mass destruction.

4. Notwithstanding the challenges of 2020, it had been a positive year overall for the Institute, which had reinforced existing areas of work and had expanded into new and emerging areas of criminal justice and crime prevention. As an exclusively voluntarily funded entity, all its results were made possible by the support of its host country Italy, donors and partners, to whom it was deeply grateful. The Institute appreciated having had the opportunity to formally brief the membership of the Council and hoped that it would be able to continue doing so on a recurring basis.

5. **Mr. Stefanile** (Observer for Italy) said that the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute brought added value to the efforts of the United Nations system to analyse and prevent criminal phenomena, promote justice and strengthen security and the rule of law in support of peace, human rights and sustainable development. The report of the Institute for 2020 clearly showed the quality of its research, analysis and assistance; its work had been particularly important in 2021, as Sustainable Development Goal 16 had been the subject of a review conference in Rome, as well as one of the Goals under review at the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

6. Italy particularly appreciated the Institute's capacity to conduct research in innovative areas and, cognizant that the prevention and containment of violent extremism and transnational organized crime required a multi-stakeholder approach, also valued its work with civil society, the private sector and academia. Many of the themes researched by the Institute had been addressed at the seventh biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and several of them were reflected in the draft resolution on crime

prevention and criminal justice, which Italy submitted annually to the General Assembly. As the host country of the Institute and one of its primary supporters, Italy supported the Institute's request to provide the Council with regular briefings on the outcomes of its activities.

7. **Mr. Lorentz** (Germany) thanked the Director for her briefing and expressed his support for regular updates to the Council.

8. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that the Institute's work under Sustainable Development Goal 16 was vital both for his country and for the Council. His delegation therefore supported the proposal that the Director of the Institute provide the Council with a regular update on its work under the annual agenda item on United Nations research and training institutes.

(d) Narcotic drugs (*continued*) (E/2021/28; E/INCB/2020/1)

9. **Ms. Krois** (Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs), speaking via video link and accompanying her statement with a digital slide presentation, introduced the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-fourth session (E/2021/28). A total of 1,400 participants, representing 132 Member States, as well as international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), had taken part in the hybrid session, with limited in-person participation and a large number of participants joining online. At the margins of the meeting, 111 side events had covered all aspects of the world drug problem, and the Commission had adopted five resolutions and eight decisions. A ceremonial opening segment had been held to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

10. The five resolutions covered a range of issues, including alternative development; scientific evidence-based drug prevention, treatment and sustained recovery; addressing the harmful effects of the non-medical use of pharmaceuticals; and demand reduction for socially marginalized individuals. The Commission had adopted a statement on the impact of COVID-19 on the world drug problem, which it had subsequently submitted as a substantive contribution to the 2021 high-level political forum. Through the eight decisions adopted, the Commission had added new substances to the schedules of the 1961 and 1971 Conventions. It had also recently developed an online course for delegates entitled "Introduction to

Scheduling", to facilitate discussions on the scope of control of substances.

11. To implement the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem, Member States had adopted a multi-year workplan for the period up to 2024, under which they envisioned annual thematic sessions on the various challenges identified in the Declaration. At the 2021 sessions, the Commission would continue to facilitate an exchange of good practices and lessons learned among policymakers, experts, civil society and academia, including on the impact of COVID-19 on the fulfilment of international drug policy commitments. It would also address the links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime; the proceeds of drug-related money-laundering; and the criminal misuse of information technologies for illicit drug-related activities. Pursuant to the 2019 Declaration, the Commission secretariat continued to hold national workshops to support States in translating international drug policy commitments into action, and had successfully hosted the first fully online workshop, for Kenya, in September 2020.

12. The Commission's subsidiary bodies, the Meetings of Heads of National Narcotics Law Enforcement Agencies and the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, brought together national experts in each of the five United Nations regions to focus on local policy and enforcement issues. Those bodies' meetings in September 2021 would again be held online owing to the ongoing pandemic. They would facilitate regional discussions of various challenges that were addressed in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration and would also be considered at the upcoming thematic sessions. Delegates should visit the Commission's website to learn more about its work.

13. **Ms. Pavadia** (President of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)), accompanying her statement with a digital slide presentation and introducing the report of the Board for 2020 (E/INCB/2020/1), said that the pandemic had starkly demonstrated the need for universal access to health care, including access to medicines containing controlled substances. Concern for health and well-being was at the heart of the international drug control system and the three conventions upon which it was founded.

14. Chapter I of the report focused on drug use among older persons, which was increasing at a faster rate than

among young people. With the global population rapidly ageing, there was an urgent need to address substance use issues among older persons, and the Board had made recommendations to that end. In Chapter III, dedicated to global issues, the Board presented an analysis of the pandemic's impact on both the availability of internationally controlled substances for licit purposes and illicit drug activity. It drew attention to the disruption in treatment for people with substance use disorders and the need to step up evidence-based prevention and treatment services, particularly in the light of the pandemic's mental health impact. The Board worked closely with Governments to ensure uninterrupted international trade in controlled substances, including essential medicines, and through the INCB Learning initiative it was building Governments' capacity for assessing need and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical, scientific and industrial use.

15. Through the Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) programme, the Board was building capacity to prevent the exploitation of e-commerce platforms, social media and the Internet for illicit sales of non-medical synthetic opioids and new psychoactive substances. Governments were encouraged to work with the programme and its public-private partnership initiative. INCB remained concerned about serious human rights violations committed in the name of drug control. All drug control actions must be proportionate and taken with full respect for the rule of law and due process, including the international drug control conventions. INCB also highlighted the obligation of States parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 to limit the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. Some States' recent legalization of cannabis for other purposes was inconsistent with that obligation, and the Board remained in close dialogue with the relevant Governments. Wherever cannabinoids were used for medical purposes, Governments should monitor their use and evaluate the potential for any unintended consequences of such programmes.

16. The report of INCB for 2020 on precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances marked the thirtieth anniversary of the entry into force of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Seizures of internationally controlled precursors used in illicit drug manufacture had declined, owing to Member States' increased use of the Board's Pre-Export Notification Online system, and joint investigations had benefited from information-sharing through the

Precursors Incident Communication System. Global action to address the use of non-scheduled chemicals, pre-precursors and designer precursors remained a primary area of concern; the Board was supporting Governments to identify innovative solutions based on the principle of shared responsibility. In the 2020 report on precursors, the Board also recommended that States parties focus on compliance with article 13 of the 1988 Convention, on the prevention of trade in and diversion of materials and equipment for illicit drug manufacture.

17. The Board had also issued a supplementary report in which it analysed the implementation of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, both of which enjoyed near-universal ratification. Despite a great increase in the number of substances controlled, and tremendous growth in the volume of international trade, international control of the licit production, trade and consumption of controlled substances had been achieved. However, the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes was inadequate in many parts of the world. Countries must review their demand forecasts to provide more realistic estimates of their legitimate needs. It was essential to bolster efforts to ensure continued access to controlled medicines for all COVID-19-related and other ongoing medical needs.

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-fourth session and provisional agenda for its sixty-fifth session

18. *Draft decision I was adopted.*

Draft decision II: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

19. *Draft decision II was adopted.*

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice
(continued) (E/2021/30 and E/2021/74)

20. **Mr. Cortese** (Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice), introducing the report of the Commission on its thirtieth session (E/2021/30) in a pre-recorded video statement, said that 1,115 participants representing Member States, international organizations and NGOs had attended the May 2021 session, which had taken place in Vienna and online. The level of participation demonstrated the importance that Member States attached to the topics dealt with by the Commission. There had been 84 online side events relating to crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law, and a ceremonial opening segment had been

held on the first day of the session to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Commission's establishment.

21. The Commission had adopted one resolution, recommended one resolution for adoption by the Council and recommended that the Council approve a further five for adoption by the General Assembly. The resolutions addressed diverse topics, including crimes that affected the environment, the reduction of re-offending, the integration of sport into youth crime-prevention strategies, strengthening of the criminal justice system in the light of COVID-19 and measures to combat trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. All the resolutions contained elements that contributed to the achievement of specific Sustainable Development Goals, and most of them also reflected the need to respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19 to the design and implementation of crime prevention and criminal justice policies.

22. The overall theme of the session had been preventing and countering the smuggling of migrants, which was closely linked to Goal 16. The Commission had also considered a standing agenda item on how its work contributed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, as in previous years, it had submitted a substantive contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Together with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission had organized a side event at the 2021 forum.

23. The fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had been held in Kyoto, Japan in March 2021, under the theme "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda". The Congress had brought together more than 5,600 participants, most of whom had attended online. Member States had adopted the Kyoto Declaration, which would represent, in years to come, the key political commitment on crime prevention and criminal justice. In the Declaration, Member States had reaffirmed that sustainable development and the rule of law were interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and had taken due account of the impact of COVID-19 on crime prevention and criminal justice. At its thirtieth session, the Commission had negotiated a resolution in which it had recommended that the General Assembly adopt the Kyoto Declaration and endorse a set of follow-up recommendations.

24. **Mr. González Behmaras** (Observer for Cuba) said that stronger international cooperation was required in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice. However, various countries continued to be subjected to

unilateral coercive measures that negatively affected their sustainable development, including their crime prevention and criminal justice capacity. The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States of America, which had worsened to unprecedented levels during the COVID-19 pandemic, was the primary factor preventing his country from achieving better outcomes in those areas. Recently, the Government of the United States had orchestrated and financed an intense operation to destabilize Cuba, inciting violence, promoting vandalism and directly financing criminal activities in his country in order to generate internal chaos and social disruption. The operation had been designed and executed from cyberspace by Florida-based companies and groups, which had received direct governmental funding for that purpose. The perpetrators had used social media, the press, artificial intelligence and big data to disseminate falsehoods and misinformation.

25. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, said that the purpose of the current discussion was to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports that had been presented, and he did not see how the statement of the representative of Cuba was relevant.

26. **Mr. González Behmaras** (Observer for Cuba) said that the discussion was, in fact, a general debate on crime prevention and criminal justice: that being the case, his delegation was fully within its rights to make a substantive statement concerning criminal activities that affected criminal justice in his country. The Government and people of Cuba would continue to defend the constitutional system that they had freely chosen. Despite the adversity it faced, Cuba continued to build a more inclusive, democratic, prosperous and sustainable society for all.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its thirtieth session (E/2021/30)

27. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Draft resolution II: Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration

Draft resolution III: Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies

Draft resolution IV: Strengthening criminal justice systems during and after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

Draft resolution V: Preventing and combating crimes that affect the environment

28. *Draft resolutions I, II, III, IV and V were adopted.*

Section B

Draft resolution VI: Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

29. *Draft resolution VI was adopted.*

Section C

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its thirtieth session and provisional agenda for its thirty-first session

30. *The draft decision was adopted.*

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

(h) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/2021/64 and E/2021/67; E/2021/L.30)

31. **Ms. Byanyima** (Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)), introducing her report (E/2021/64), said that AIDS had claimed more than 35 million lives in the 40 years since the first cases had been reported and, despite tremendous progress, it continued to be one of the deadliest pandemics of modern times. Of the 37.7 million people living with HIV, 10.2 million did not have access to antiretroviral treatment, and progress towards ending AIDS had been uneven. In 2020, there had been 1.5 million new infections and 680,000 AIDS-related deaths, although humanity had the knowledge and tools to prevent every single one. Inequalities, including gender and racial inequalities, stigma and discrimination, punitive laws and the denial of human rights drove new HIV infections and prevented people from receiving the services they needed. The impact of inequalities on the epidemic was clear: sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 40 per cent of all new infections globally, for example, and six out of seven new HIV infections among adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa were among girls. Globally, 5,000 women 15 to 24 years of age were infected with HIV every week, and 65 per cent of all new infections now occurred in key populations – those groups most at risk of getting HIV. Worryingly, there were new waves of COVID-19 in sub-Saharan Africa, home to two thirds of people living

with HIV. The countries with the highest HIV prevalence had the lowest vaccination coverage, and vaccines were not arriving fast enough. COVID-19 was overwhelming health systems, including HIV prevention and treatment services.

32. The Council had demonstrated great foresight in establishing UNAIDS in 1996. It had insisted that people living with HIV and those most at risk of infection must be at the centre of the global response, and, through the NGO delegation, had included them in the governance of UNAIDS. UNAIDS had led global efforts to keep HIV/AIDS on national and global political agendas and had supported countries to implement evidence- and rights-based, gender-responsive and multisectoral responses. However, its 2020 core budget of \$187 million represented less than 1 per cent of the total of \$21.5 billion invested in the AIDS response in low- and middle-income countries that year. Over the previous 18 months UNAIDS had responded rapidly to the challenges posed by the pandemic, working with Governments and communities, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to ensure continued access to HIV services.

33. UNAIDS was continuously refining its operating model to enhance efficiency, coordination, collaboration and coherence. The Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026: End Inequalities. End AIDS, adopted by the Programme Coordinating Board, and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030, adopted by Member States at the recent High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS, would generate momentum and enable UNAIDS to better assist countries to meet the 2025 targets set out in the Political Declaration. UNAIDS would continue to support countries to monitor and collect data, which was critical for an evidence-based response; mobilize partners globally, regionally and nationally and across sectors to ensure that the response was fully funded; and redouble its efforts to end the inequalities that were preventing some groups from accessing services.

34. **Mr. Shangula** (Chair of the Programme Coordinating Board of UNAIDS), speaking via video link to introduce the report of the Board (E/2021/67), said that the report had been prepared pursuant to Council resolution 2019/33, in which the Council had requested the Board to discuss issues relating to the governance and core funding of UNAIDS. The governance structure of UNAIDS was unique in its inclusiveness: the Board was composed of 22 Member States, 11 UNAIDS co-sponsors and 5 NGOs. The

participation of the NGO delegation ensured that the Board's deliberations were informed by the realities of those affected by HIV, and the inclusion of the co-sponsors maximized coordination and ensured that the perspective of the many sectors involved in the global response were taken into account. The Board was an important agenda-setting forum that brought diverse countries and stakeholders together through consensus decision-making. The Board's two-day meetings were complemented by day-long thematic segments on key topics. One of the Board's key functions was to monitor the performance of UNAIDS against set targets and performance monitoring had recently improved, enabling the Board to link investments with specific results and to evaluate the achievements of UNAIDS as a whole, as well as the individual contributions of the co-sponsors.

35. The governance of UNAIDS had adapted over time in response to the evolving epidemic, and the Board had taken steps to strengthen its governance in response to independent evaluations, most recently the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit. The changes had been aimed at enhancing the Board's impact, strengthening the co-sponsors' ownership and aligning the Board's governance with best practices. In response to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Board had clarified its oversight and accountability functions and had established an independent oversight advisory committee. Other recent changes included a refined division of labour among the co-sponsors and secretariat, a new model of funding for co-sponsors and updated guiding principles for co-sponsorship. The Board had adapted its procedures to ensure governance continuity during the pandemic and, despite the challenges of virtual negotiations, had succeeded in holding all its meetings as planned, including the consensus adoption of the Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026.

36. UNAIDS relied entirely on voluntary contributions from donors and development partners. Core funding accounting for a consistently large share of its overall funding, a sign of donors' confidence in their investments and in the oversight of the Board. However, persistent underfunding since 2014 had negatively affected the ability of UNAIDS to lead a robust global AIDS response and had coincided with a flattening of overall investments in the global response. There was an urgent need for renewed global solidarity to mobilize the resources necessary and to ensure an adequate and predictable level of core and non-core funding to UNAIDS, as Member States had recognized in the present draft resolution.

37. In 2019, the Joint Inspection Unit had recommended that the Board engage with the Secretary-General to consider establishing a term limit for the position of the UNAIDS Executive Director in order to improve succession planning, and a compact that would provide transparency with regard to performance expectations. The working group of the Board that considered the recommendations had found that most United Nations entities limited the terms of office of their executive heads to two terms of four to five years each, but had determined that the Board did not have the legal authority to petition the Secretary-General directly. Therefore, the Board had recommended in its report that the Council request the Secretary-General to submit a report, after consultation with the Board, on the establishment of a limit of two four-year terms, as well as performance expectations for the position of Executive Director.

Draft resolution E/2021/L.30: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

38. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council), delivering a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 31 of the Council's rules of procedure, said that, should the draft resolution be adopted, the Council would request the Secretary-General to submit a report, after consultation with the Programme Coordinating Board, on the establishment of a limit of two four-year terms and performance expectations for the position of UNAIDS Executive Director, in line with the practices of the United Nations system and as recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit. In view of the fact that neither the submission date nor the length of the report was known at the current time, the budgetary implications would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly following consultation with the Board.

39. **Ms. Iileka** (Observer for Namibia), speaking also on behalf of Thailand, introducing the draft resolution, said that Namibia and Thailand, as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Programme Coordinating Board and as co-facilitators of the draft resolution, had held informal consultations on the draft resolution in Geneva, as had been the practice since 2015. As the report by the Executive Director of UNAIDS demonstrated, extraordinary results had been achieved in the global AIDS response, but Member States had not reached the targets they had set for 2020, and there were deep disparities within and among countries, as well as between men and women and different age groups. Key populations remained especially vulnerable.

40. The draft resolution reflected the fact that AIDS was driven by inequalities. In it, Member States

recognized the need to act with urgency to meet the targets and commitments set out in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS and in the Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026, which were preconditions for ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, and called on UNAIDS to support countries in that regard. They also called for enhanced coordination with other health programmes to address coinfections and co-morbidities and achieve better health outcomes, and for stepped-up efforts to ensure uninterrupted access to HIV services during the COVID-19 pandemic. They noted the recent discussions of the Board on governance and core funding issues, as well as the discussions on the important part played in governance by the NGO delegation. Importantly, they called for urgent action to close the resource gap in the AIDS response and emphasized the need for a fully funded UNAIDS budget.

41. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America), speaking also on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, said that, having recognized the crucial role of civil society since the earliest days of the AIDS epidemic, the Council had enshrined civil society participation in global policy and programme decision-making through the NGO delegation to the Programme Coordinating Board. Civil society continued to serve as the collective eyes and ears of the HIV response, providing critical information and perspectives on everything from HIV service delivery to the impact of discriminatory or unsupportive laws and policies. Meaningful civil society involvement helped to serve key populations; uphold individual human rights irrespective of age, social and economic status, religious belief or self-chosen gender identity; monitor policies; and illuminate the day-to-day realities of living with HIV/AIDS. Without civil society participation, the global HIV response would ultimately not succeed.

42. Their delegations noted with concern, therefore, the recent attempts to diminish the role of civil society in the debates of the Programme Coordinating Board and meetings of the General Assembly related to HIV and AIDS. The United States would continue to champion robust civil society participation: HIV-affected communities, particularly key populations, had a crucial place in United Nations meetings, contributing to policy development and giving voice to complex issues. Moreover, the participation of affected populations was an ethical imperative, and was essential if the world was to end AIDS by 2030. The NGO delegation grounded the Board in the reality of the

epidemic and pushed Governments to do better by questioning their decisions and holding them to account.

43. Civil society also called attention and brought passion to neglected and contentious issues, while highlighting the diversity of affected communities. Representing the communities most vulnerable to HIV, the NGO delegation understood how those groups could best be reached, involved and effectively served with HIV prevention, treatment and care services. The draft resolution was an opportunity for the Council to reiterate its commitment to protecting and celebrating the unique and essential role of community and civil society in the governing body of UNAIDS.

44. **Mr. Lages** (Portugal) said that Portugal supported the joint statement made by the representative of the United States.

45. *Draft resolution E/2021/L.30 was adopted.*

46. **Mr. Varganov** (Russian Federation), welcoming the adoption of the draft resolution, said that his country had a long history of working with UNAIDS: it had made a voluntary contribution of \$17.8 million to the Joint Programme over the course of 2019–2021 to assist Eastern European and Central Asian countries and, since 2012, its contributions had reached a total of \$50 million. His delegation welcomed the calls to step up action on testing and treatment, the attention given to the comprehensive work being done to combat tuberculosis and HIV in tandem and the references, in paragraphs 3 and 14, to the importance of national policies and priorities in guiding the work of UNAIDS. His delegation also noted that the draft resolution confirmed the mandate of the Joint Programme and the rules of procedure of the Programme Coordinating Board, which included the principle that negotiations and decision-making were the prerogative of Member States.

47. Although his delegation had joined the consensus on the resolution, it remained dissatisfied with a number of controversial provisions contained in the Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026 and in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, and it had reservations about some of the terminology used in preambular paragraphs 12 and 15 and paragraph 6 of the resolution. The secretariat of UNAIDS should work more closely with interested Member States to ensure that their concerns were reflected in its documents: that would ensure continued unity within the international community on the important issue of HIV/AIDS, and the effectiveness of global efforts to end AIDS.

48. **Mr. Mohamed** (Egypt) said that Egypt had joined the consensus to adopt the draft resolution because it

was convinced of the necessity of ending the AIDS epidemic and upholding the right of all to the highest attainable standard of health.

49. Various forms of violence could be understood differently in different contexts, as affirmed in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution. In Egypt, domestic violence was defined as “acts of violence committed by husbands or other members of the family against women or girls” and community violence was defined as “acts of violence committed by strangers, not members of the family or friends”; the prohibition of all forms of violence was governed by national laws. Furthermore, Egypt considered the category “people in vulnerable situations” to include only such people whose vulnerability enjoyed international consensus, such as women, girls, children, persons with disabilities, refugees and migrants. While his delegation preferred the wording “multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination”, which was used in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, it had joined the consensus on preambular paragraph 12, which included the phrase “multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination”. His delegation interpreted that phrase as underscoring the challenges confronting people in vulnerable situations owing to the combined effects of poverty, economic exclusion, racism, xenophobia and other factors.

50. His delegation welcomed the reaffirmation, in preambular paragraph 8, of the sovereign rights of Member States to implement the commitments and pledges in the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS in accordance with their laws and development priorities, and international human rights; that had made it possible for Egypt to the join consensus, in a spirit of compromise.

(f) Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (E/2021/48/Rev.1; E/2021/L.35)

51. **Mr. Obermeyer** (Director, New York Office of the World Health Organization (WHO)), introducing the report of the Director General of WHO on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (E/2021/48/Rev.1), said that the world was not on track to meet critical targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, including target 3.4 (by 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being), and target 3.a (strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate).

52. The pandemic made the need to address non-communicable diseases clear – such diseases, and their risk factors, increased susceptibility to COVID-19 infection, as well as the likelihood of severe outcomes. In September 2020, WHO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had issued a series of papers on the theme “Responding to non-communicable diseases during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic”, with inputs from across the United Nations system, including from more than 30 members of the Task Force.

53. In response to the need for greater development financing for non-communicable diseases and mental health conditions, WHO, UNDP and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) had established the first-ever United Nations trust fund designed to support the responses of low- and middle-income Member States to those diseases and conditions. The pandemic was having a significant impact on non-communicable diseases and mental health conditions, making it an opportune time to have established the trust fund. The ambition was to raise \$250 million over five years, an amount expected to catalyse action that, by 2030, would lead to 8 million lives saved, 80 million healthy life years gained and \$350 billion of economic benefits for low- and middle-income countries, as well as supporting countries to build back better after the pandemic. Member States and other partners were encouraged to provide financial resources and assist in the governance of the trust fund.

54. The Task Force secretariat remained grateful for the financial support of its partners, which included the Russian Federation, the European Union, the Gulf Council of Health Ministries and Italy.

Draft resolution E/2021/L.35: United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

55. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

56. **Mr. Varganov** (Russian Federation), introducing the draft resolution, said that the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases brought together more than 40 United Nations system entities and partner organizations. Non-communicable diseases caused approximately 70 per cent of deaths throughout the world and had vast socioeconomic impacts. Those living with such diseases were at greater risk of developing severe symptoms if they contracted COVID-19, while the pandemic itself was straining national health systems and limiting capacity for the treatment of non-communicable diseases. The draft resolution

reflected the links between the responses to non-communicable diseases and to COVID-19.

57. The members of the Task Force were encouraged to assist Member States in promoting good health, and in particular with the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. In the draft resolution, Member States highlighted the importance of mental health issues in the work of the Task Force, welcomed the long-awaited creation of the multi-partner trust fund to combat non-communicable diseases and noted the outcomes of the midpoint evaluation of the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013–2030.

58. Since the first Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Non-communicable Disease Control, held jointly with WHO in Moscow in 2011, the Russian Federation had made non-communicable diseases a national priority, and had put them at the heart of its international efforts. Since 2014, Moscow had hosted the WHO European Office for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, and his Government had made voluntary contributions to WHO totalling \$40.6 million for joint work to combat non-communicable diseases during the period from 2019 to 2023. His delegation was pleased that preparations were under way for the 2025 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on issues related to non-communicable diseases. The Task Force, which had proven its relevance and effectiveness since its establishment in 2013, deserved acknowledgement and careful guidance from the Council.

59. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Armenia, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Cuba, Jamaica, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Uruguay.

60. *Draft resolution E/2021/L.35 was adopted.*

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (continued)

(b) Science and technology for development (E/2021/11 and E/2021/31; E/2021/L.27)

61. **Mr. Major** (Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development), speaking via video link to introduce the report of the Commission on its twenty-fourth session (E/2021/31), said that more than 1,200 participants had attended the May 2021 session, which had consisted of six main segments. At a high-level segment, participants had noted with concern the

inequality of countries' access to the benefits of science, technology and innovation and the persistence of digital divides in the context of a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The international community had a critical role to play in ensuring equal access in areas such as health care, particularly by encouraging knowledge transfer, open science and open source technologies. Stronger multilateralism was needed to address the pandemic and enable countries to better cope with future crises.

62. Participants had considered two priority themes: "Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being" and "Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges". Under the first, they had discussed how science, technology and innovation, as well as frontier technologies, contributed to health care globally, noting the significant inequalities among countries and the existing weaknesses in the science-policy interface. Under the second theme, participants had analysed how emerging uses of blockchain could accelerate progress towards the Goals in areas such as land titles, remittances, identity systems, climate change and financial inclusion, and had agreed on the urgent need to address challenges and constraints to the use of blockchain.

63. Reviewing the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, participants had highlighted challenges such as the digital divide, cybersecurity, misinformation and disinformation, as well as the role of information and communications technology (ICT) during the pandemic in supporting learning and health care and facilitating remote work. At a session on gender and science, technology and innovation, they had noted the continuing gender gap in those fields, including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and in access to and use of ICT. Governments should put in place legal requirements and strong policies to support and empower women to enter all sectors, especially science, technology, engineering and mathematics sectors. Following the presentation of reports on science, technology, and innovation policy reviews, participants had discussed the outcomes of the reviews that had been undertaken in the Dominican Republic, Uganda and Zambia with assistance from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and had shared their national experiences of the activities aimed at addressing the challenges identified by the reviews.

64. The Commission had selected "Industry 4.0 for inclusive development" and "Science, technology and

innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-COVID-19 world” as priority themes for its twenty-fifth session. Lastly, the Commission secretariat was currently identifying new members of its Gender Advisory Board, whom it hoped to appoint pursuant to the Council’s extension of its mandate.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-fourth session (E/2021/31)

65. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

Draft resolution II: Science, technology and innovation for development

66. *Draft resolutions I and II were adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision I: Extension of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Draft decision II: Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Draft decision III: Participation of academic and technical entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Draft decision IV: Participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Draft decision V: Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission

67. *Draft decisions I, II, III, IV and V were adopted.*

Draft resolution E/2021/L.27: Open-source technologies for sustainable development

68. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

69. **Mr. Muhammad Imran Khan** (Pakistan), introducing the draft resolution, said that millions of open-source products had been shared by the global community, from consumer goods to scientific and medical equipment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, open-source technologies and new digital manufacturing techniques had enabled developing countries to manufacture personal protective equipment. There was no comprehensive repository or central database for open-source technologies, however. Instead, organizations tended to maintain their own small-scale databases, which made it difficult for users to locate and utilize open-source technologies. It also hampered the diffusion of such technologies, which were essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in developing countries. The draft resolution was the first step towards consolidating open-source technologies and making them more accessible to all users.

70. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that China had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

71. *Draft resolution E/2021/L.27 was adopted.*

(i) Geospatial information (continued) (E/2021/69)

72. **Mr. Jaillard** (Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names), speaking via video link and introducing the report of the Group on its 2021 session (E/2021/69), said that the session had been informal and held virtually. The focus had been on the role of geographical names in supporting sustainable development and management of the pandemic. In its report, the Group of Experts recommended that the Council approve the adoption by the Group of its strategic plan and programme of work for the period 2021–2029, which were aimed at further enhancing the efficiency of the Group’s operations, strengthening its alignment with other expert bodies of the Council and enabling the Group to support the Council’s work. Under the programme of work, the group would contribute to capacity-building for Member States and conduct thematic analyses, on the basis of geospatial data, that could be used to monitor implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

73. Given the value of place names in terms of heritage, the Group of Experts would also bolster its contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11.4, on strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage. The Group recommended that the Council instruct the Group to consider current and potential connections between geographical names and the environment, and to consider developing guidelines on

equality and inclusion in geographical names, in order to promote the restoration, protection and preservation of cultural heritage. The challenge was to pursue those aims while avoiding unnecessary changes and respecting the value of political neutrality. Similarly, in its work on exonyms, the Group sought to balance technical considerations with the need to safeguard cultural diversity. The Group of Experts remained committed to helping ensure that every country had a fully functioning and globally-aligned framework for geographical names that served to identify locations while respecting local culture and heritage.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its 2021 session (E/2021/69)

74. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

Draft decision I

Draft decision II

Draft decision III

75. The draft decisions were adopted.

Agenda item 15: Regional cooperation (continued) (E/2019/15/Add.2; E/2021/15 and E/2021/15/Add.1; E/2021/L.23/Rev.1)

Draft resolution E/2021/L.23/Rev.1: Follow-up to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

76. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council), reading out a statement of programme budget implications in connection with draft resolution E/2021/L.23/Rev.1 in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, said that, under the terms of paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the Council would request the Secretary-General to provide, within existing resources and in line with regular budgetary procedures, adequate, stable and predictable resources to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to perform its functions as secretariat of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), pursuant to article 17 of the Agreement. In accordance with paragraph 4, it would invite ECLAC to continue seeking voluntary contributions to cover any necessary, immediate costs arising from the entry into force of the Escazú Agreement in 2021, and encourage all Member States in a position to do so to contribute.

77. In article 17 of the Escazú Agreement, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC was designated as Secretary of the Agreement and mandated to carry out functions such as convening, organizing and providing services for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies; providing capacity-building assistance; determining the administrative and contractual arrangements needed to carry out its functions effectively; and performing any other secretariat functions specified in the Agreement and any other functions determined by the Conference of the Parties. The Agreement also provided that ECLAC should operate the clearing house provided for in its article 12.

78. In order for the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to execute the functions set out in the draft resolution, additional deliverables would be required under programme 18 (economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean), subprogramme 7 (sustainable development and human settlements), of the programme plan for 2022. In the absence of any certainty with regard to the availability of voluntary resources, additional adequate, stable and predictable regular budget resources would be required in 2022 to ensure the implementation of the draft resolution. It should be noted that, in the draft resolution, ECLAC was invited to continue to seek voluntary contributions to cover costs arising from the entry into force of the Escazú Agreement in 2021.

79. The following additional resources would be required under section 21 (economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean) and section 36 (staff assessment) of the proposed programme budget for 2022 (A/76/6 (Sect. 21)): the amount required to cover, for 12 months, the salaries associated with one P-4 Legal Officer post, one P-2 Associate Environmental Affairs Officer post and one local Administrative Assistant post, under other staff costs; \$65,000 under non-post resources (policymaking organs) to hold the Conference of the Parties; and \$35,000 under subprogramme 7 for the Committee to support implementation of and compliance with the Agreement. Those additional resources, inclusive of staff assessment, were estimated at \$500,400 for the year 2022, for which no provisions had been made in the proposed programme budget. Of that total, \$454,300 fell under section 21 and \$46,100 under section 35 of the budget. If the Council adopted the draft resolution, the additional resource requirements would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session and considered in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates

resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 2021 session.

80. With respect to paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, in which the Secretary-General was requested to provide, within existing resources and in line with regular budgetary procedures, adequate, stable and predictable resources for ECLAC to function as secretariat of the Escazú Agreement, the Council's attention was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution [45/248 B](#) and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution [75/252](#), in which the Assembly had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and reaffirmed the role of the Fifth Committee in carrying out a thorough analysis and approving human and financial resources and policies, with a view to ensuring the full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in that regard.

81. **Mr. Sandoval Mendiola** (Mexico), introducing draft resolution [E/2021/L.23/Rev.1](#) also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Uruguay, said that the Escazú Agreement, the first international environmental agreement in Latin America, would not only promote cooperation on matters concerning the protection of the environment in the region but also foster transparency and justice, strengthen governance and enhance the social contract. The draft resolution would therefore have a direct impact on the achievement of every Sustainable Development Goal. The Agreement, which had entered into force on 22 April 2021, stipulated that the first meeting of the Conference of the States parties must be held no later than 21 April 2022. ECLAC would require additional resources to fulfil its mandate under the Agreement.

82. It should be noted that the request for resources in the draft resolution was a one-off; subsequent costs were expected to be covered by voluntary contributions. Given the pressing need to implement the 2030 Agenda, the Conference should not be delayed. The vast majority of amendments proposed by Member States during the informal negotiations were reflected in the draft resolution. The granting of any resources would be subject to the normal budgetary procedures of the United Nations.

83. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that the Plurinational State of Bolivia had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

84. **Ms. Česarek** (Observer for Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that while those delegations fully supported the content of the Escazú Agreement and welcomed its entry into force, they had concerns about the request for additional resources from the thinly stretched regular budget of the United Nations. While the revised draft took into account such concerns to the extent that it invited ECLAC to seek other sources of financing, it was rather surprising that the amounts mentioned by the Secretary, which had been shared with delegations only two days earlier, were even higher than the estimates initially shared with delegations. Given the concerns that had been expressed during the informal consultations, the European Union and its member States had expected that the request for budget resources would be removed from the text or that the amount would at least be reduced. Those delegations did not support the request for additional resources from the programme budget, or the consideration of the request in the Fifth Committee. They trusted that ECLAC would be able to find alternative, uncontroversial ways to meet any financial needs arising from the entry into force of the Agreement.

85. **Ms. Stewart** (United Kingdom) said that her delegation strongly supported the Escazú Agreement and the role of ECLAC in its implementation and was pleased that the budget-related issues that had been raised were reflected in the revised version of the draft resolution. However, it still had concerns about the resource requirements associated with the draft resolution, which were substantial and had been shared at a very late stage in the proceedings. Her delegation would prefer secretariat functions to be conducted within existing resources and encouraged ECLAC to seek voluntary contributions to cover as much of the required post and non-post resources as possible.

86. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that while his delegation congratulated the Latin American and Caribbean States on the entry into force of the Escazú Agreement, it continued to have concerns about certain aspects of the Agreement, as expressed by United States delegates to the Organization of American States in 2018. With regard to article 4, paragraph 1, of the Agreement, the United States had consistently reiterated that there were no universally recognized human rights specifically related to the environment. Furthermore, some of the principles in article 3, including the "precautionary principle", were ill-defined and subject to misinterpretation. His

delegation supported the precautionary approach as reflected in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which provided that when there were threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent damage.

87. **Mr. Pary Rodríguez** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the Escazú Agreement was the first agreement in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean that provided for public participation in decisions affecting the environment, and the first environmental agreement in the world to include provisions on human rights defenders. The Agreement fostered international cooperation and promoted the protection of ecosystems, public participation in environmental decision-making, access to environmental information, access to justice in environmental matters and the strengthening of environmental governance. Importantly, it allowed any individual to take legal action to defend the environment. His country had been the second to ratify the Agreement, in accordance with the desire of its people to live in harmony with nature and protect Mother Earth.

88. In order for the Agreement to be implemented as quickly as possible, ECLAC should be given the resources it required to fulfil the mandate accorded to it by the parties. It should be borne in mind that one of the roles of ECLAC was to support States in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the implementation of the Escazú Agreement was a crucial aspect of sustainable development efforts in the region.

89. **Mr. Kita** (Japan) said that while his delegation recognized the importance of the Escazú Agreement for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean and hoped that it would be implemented at a good pace, Japan had concerns about the budget-related elements of the draft resolution. It was regrettable that a request was being made that would place an additional burden on the regular budget of the United Nations. The States parties and ECLAC should have discussed funding options properly during the process of adopting the Agreement, and any requests for regular budget funding should have been made through the standard budgetary procedures, not through the Council. The parties to the Agreement should improve their budget process for the future.

90. **Mr. Varganov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation also had concerns about the budgetary implications of the draft resolution and would like to know how accurate the estimated amounts required

were. It also wished to highlight that the Agreement was regional and did not impose any obligations on States that were not parties to it.

91. *Draft resolution E/2021/L.23/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Draft resolution VI: Revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee

92. **The President** said that he understood that the Council wished to defer consideration of draft resolution VI, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2019/Add.2), in order to allow for further consultations. He proposed that the Council postpone consideration of the draft resolution to its 2022 session and no later than the end of 2021.

93. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 7: Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

(c) South-South cooperation for development (A/76/39)

94. **Mr. Abdellatif** (Director ad interim, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation), introducing the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its twentieth session (A/76/39), said that the Committee had adopted two decisions during the session. In decision 20/1, on South-South cooperation, it had noted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in developing countries, and had called upon Member States, other partners and donors to urgently close the funding gap for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and its mechanisms; support equitable distribution of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines; and further explore innovative financing mechanisms aimed at strengthening and ensuring the continuity of essential health services. It had also recognized that some United Nations entities had increased their support to South-South initiatives; noted with appreciation the establishment of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation; and reaffirmed the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for the promotion and facilitation of South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation for development. In its decision 20/2, the Committee had approved the provisional agenda for its twenty-first session, to be held in 2023.

95. At the session, which had been held virtually, high-level government officials had highlighted the increased significance of South-South cooperation in a context where solidarity, multilateralism, partnerships and regional cooperation were needed to address the pandemic and climate change. A number of delegations had called upon developed countries to fulfil their official development assistance commitments to support developing countries in addressing the pandemic and implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

96. While reiterating their need for coherent and coordinated United Nations support for South-South initiatives, a number of delegations had expressed strong support for the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. Several delegations had shared the view that triangular cooperation significantly supplemented South-South cooperation and contributed to enabling developing countries to achieve sustainable development. Many delegations had highlighted the importance of digital technology and Internet access in enhancing the impact of South-South and triangular cooperation and accelerating pandemic recovery. Other needs highlighted by delegations included ensuring equal access to vaccines, in particular by promoting production around the world through capacity-building and other measures; continuing to share good practices; making cities resilient; rethinking urban development; and finding ways to expand the role of South-South cooperation in pandemic recovery efforts.

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

(i) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields (continued) (E/2021/L.34)

Draft decision E/2021/L.34: Proposed dates of the meetings and segments of the Economic and Social Council in 2022

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

98. *Draft decision E/2021/L.34 was adopted.*

Agenda item 13: Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B, 60/265, 61/16, 67/290, 68/1 and 72/305

99. **The President** said that no advance documentation had been submitted under agenda item 13 and there was no draft proposal before the Council.

Agenda item 4: Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (continued) (E/2021/9/Add.12 and E/2021/9/Add.13)

100. **The President** said that the elections were being held in accordance with the Council's relevant rules of procedure on elections and voting, namely rules 63, 68, 69 and 70.

Committee of Experts on Public Administration (E/2021/9/Add.12)

101. **The President** invited the Council to consider the appointment of 24 members of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration. He took it that the Council approved the nomination by the Secretary-General of the 24 experts listed in documents E/2021/9/Add.12 and agreed to appoint them to the Committee for a four-year term beginning on 1 August 2021.

102. *It was so decided.*

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2021/9/Add.13)

103. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the appointment by the Secretary-General of 25 members of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, whose names and biographical information were contained in document E/2021/9/Add.13. The experts would serve on the Committee in their personal capacity for a term beginning on the date of notification of the appointment and expiring on 30 June 2025.

104. *It was so decided.*

Commission on the Status of Women

105. **The President** invited the Council to fill an outstanding vacancy from the African States on the Commission on the Status of Women. He took it that the Council wished to elect Algeria, by acclamation, for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's sixty-seventh session, in 2022, and expiring at the close of its seventieth session, in 2026.

106. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

107. **The President** invited the Council to fill an outstanding vacancy from the African States on the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. He took it that the Council wished to elect Nigeria, by acclamation, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2022.

108. *It was so decided.*

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

109. **The President** invited the Council to fill an outstanding vacancy from the Asia-Pacific States on the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. He took it that the Council wished to elect Kazakhstan, by acclamation, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2022.

110. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

111. **The President** invited the Council to elect four members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund. He took it that the Council wished to elect Australia, France, Germany and Monaco, by acclamation, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2022.

112. *It was so decided.*

113. **The President** said that New Zealand and Switzerland would resign from the Executive Board with effect from 31 December 2021. The Western European and Other States had endorsed Sweden to complete the term of office of New Zealand, beginning on 1 January 2022 and expiring on 31 December 2023, and Denmark to complete the term of Switzerland, beginning on 1 January 2022 and expiring on 31 December 2022. He took it that the Council wished to elect, by acclamation, the candidates proposed.

114. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services

115. **The President** invited the Council to elect four members to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services. He took it that the Council wished to elect Germany, Greece, the Netherlands and Sweden, by acclamation, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2022.

116. *It was so decided.*

117. **The President** said that Denmark would resign from the Executive Board with effect from 31 December 2021. Switzerland had been endorsed by the Western European and Other States to complete the term of office of Denmark, beginning on 1 January 2022 and expiring on 31 December 2022. He took it that the

Council wished to elect, by acclamation, the candidate proposed.

118. *It was so decided.*

Committee for the United Nations Population Award

119. **The President** invited the Council to elect two members to the Committee for the United Nations Population Award. He took it that the Council wished to elect Indonesia and Lebanon, by acclamation, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2022.

120. *It was so decided.*

Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

121. **The President** said that Switzerland would resign from the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission with effect from 31 December 2021. New Zealand had been endorsed by the Western European and Other States to complete the term of office of Switzerland, beginning on 1 January 2022 and expiring on 31 December 2022. He took it that the Council wished to elect, by acclamation, the candidate proposed.

122. *It was so decided.*

Conclusion of management segment and the 2021 session of the Council

123. **The President** declared that the Council had concluded its July management segment and its 2021 session.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.