



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 July 2022

Original: English

2022 session

23 July 2021–22 July 2022

Summary record of the 20th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 8 June 2022, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Stoeva (Vice-President) (Bulgaria)

Contents

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(c) Statistics

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

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(i) Women and development

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

(a) Advancement of women

(b) Social development

(d) Narcotic drugs (*continued*)

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(e) Population and development

(a) Sustainable development

(f) Public administration and development

Agenda item 10: The role of the United Nations system in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

22-08773 (E)



Please recycle



Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Agenda item 13: Implementation of General Assembly resolutions [50/227](#), [52/12](#) B, [57/270](#) B, [60/265](#), [61/16](#), [67/290](#), [68/1](#), [72/305](#) and [75/290](#) A and B

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

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

In the absence of Mr. Kelapile (Botswana), Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria), Vice-President, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (continued)

(c) Statistics (E/2022/24)

1. **Mr. Ulrich** (Vice-Chair of the Statistical Commission), speaking via video link and presenting the highlights of the report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-third session (E/2022/24), said that the Commission had held its fifty-third session as remote informal meetings, owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Those meetings had been attended by more than 1,000 delegates from 133 countries and around 40 international agencies. The Commission had successfully discussed its entire agenda and had adopted its report, which contained 30 technical decisions. The present report would help guide the work of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations statistics system as a whole.

2. Three important decisions had been taken by the Commission. First, it had elaborated the draft resolution “Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem” to meet the data demands of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to identify potentially beneficial new data sources.

3. Second, the Commission had successfully adopted the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators to be used by countries when preparing their own climate change statistics and indicators. That framework would also support international climate change reporting to the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and regarding the climate-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

4. Third, the Commission had adopted the Sustainable Development Goals Geospatial Road map for working within the global indicator framework, with a view to accelerating the remaining methodological work of Goals.

5. The report of the Commission also contained decisions on cross-cutting topics such as data stewardship, open data and the integration of statistical and geospatial information, as well as narrower issues such as national accounts, population and housing censuses, and statistics regarding economics, health, gender, statelessness and governance.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-third session (E/2022/24)

6. **Ms. Dubey** (India) said that her delegation wished to express its concerns regarding paragraph (d) of draft decision 53/112 on health statistics, which urged the World Health Organization (WHO) to publish in March 2022 the global estimates of excess mortality associated with COVID-19 as estimated by the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment.

7. While her delegation strongly supported information transparency on all health-related aspects and firmly believed in the scientific approach to decision-making in public health policy issues, it also believed that the process, methodology and results obtained by the aforementioned Technical Advisory Group were not scientifically rigorous and did not hold up to sufficient scrutiny.

8. In addition, her delegation did not feel that the process had been collaborative or adequately representative. Given that India already had a robust system in place for collecting birth- and date-related data and that the data sources used for the modelling exercise were not reliable, her delegation did not agree to the use of data that called into question the validity of the forecasting techniques.

9. In the country consultations conducted from September to November 2021, only 113 countries had nominated focal points, and only 45 of those had provided feedback on the methodology. A one-size-fits-all approach was not viable, as it failed to address heterogeneous demographics, existing mortality recording systems, inter- and intra-country variations in containment practices, the dynamic nature of positivity rates, or the different methods of COVID-19 testing used globally. Her delegation therefore did not support the process, methodology or results of the Technical Advisory Group. The mention of the reservations expressed by India in decision 53/112 (d) did not fully address the concerns that her Government had expressed, despite those objections being strongly conveyed multiple times including through a written statement on 17 February 2022 and through an oral intervention on 4 March 2022.

10. Similarly, her delegation wished to express its concerns regarding paragraph (d) of draft decision 53/108 on civil registration and vital statistics, in which support was also expressed for the work of the Technical Advisory group and its findings and outputs were welcomed. Thus, in paragraphs (d) of draft decisions 53/112 and 53/108 the Statistical Commission had not appropriately reflected her Government's position

regarding the estimation of excess mortality associated with COVID-19. She asked the Council to register the strong objection of her delegation in that respect.

11. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-third session ([E/2022/24](#)).

Section A

Draft resolution: Ensuring that the work in the field of statistics and data is adaptive to the changing statistical and data ecosystem

12. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision: Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-third session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission

13. *The draft decision was adopted.*

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

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system ([E/2022/62](#))

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (continued)

(i) Women and development

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

(a) Advancement of women ([A/77/38](#) and [E/2022/27](#))

14. **Ms. Mehrotra** (Director of the United Nations System Coordination Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), speaking via video link and introducing the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system ([E/2022/62](#)), said that the report focused on efforts made in the United Nations system to strengthen both gender mainstreaming and equality in operational activities against the backdrop of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and through the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and its gender equality scorecard.

15. The pandemic had continued to take a toll on women and girls, with violence against women and child

marriage increasing, while women's employment had declined. The World Economic Forum had noted that, moving forward, it would take more than 13 decades to close the gender gap worldwide. The United Nations system thus continued to focus on producing robust data to inform a gender-sensitive response to the pandemic. A number of inter-agency initiatives had been launched in that regard. Rapid gender assessment surveys conducted in more than 70 countries had confirmed that while women and girls disproportionately suffered from the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, they had received far less economic relief or social protections.

16. At the United Nations country team level, 70 per cent of country teams that had developed a cooperation framework in 2021 had included a dedicated gender equality outcome; 87 per cent of the former had also reported at least one joint programme with a focus on Sustainable Development Goal 5. The United Nations Sustainable Development Group had elaborated the standards and procedures of the Gender Theme Groups. The "Women for Afghan Women" Advisory Group for the humanitarian country team had helped to amplify women's voices. The mandatory inclusion of the gender equality marker in the United Nations COVID-19 response and recovery multi-partner trust fund had yielded a significant increase from 5 to 64 per cent in the funding of programmes with gender equality as a primary target. UN-Women and the Statistical Division had produced a report entitled "Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2021" that examined progress in all the Goals from a gender equality perspective.

17. There had been continued progress with regard to the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and its implementation at the country team level. Seventy-one entities had reported on their gender mainstreaming performance under the second generation of the System-wide Action Plan, with 64 per cent meeting or exceeding their 2021 ratings. Consistent performance had been registered in the crucial areas of strategic planning and gender policy, two indicators which, once met, rendered a country nine times more likely to meet the remaining indicators. In contrast, however, the gender architecture indicator had decreased slightly, and the gender equality marker continued to lag behind despite showing progress. The number of United Nations country teams implementing the System-wide Action Plan had risen from 38 per cent in 2020 to 61 per cent in 2021. The indicators that had registered the strongest performance were collaboration and engagement with Governments, the number of civil society organizations dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment, and a

supportive organizational culture. Despite registering gains in 2021, the financial resource tracking and allocation indicator remained the weakest. For the first time, nearly 45 per cent of country teams which had submitted a System-wide Action Plan report in 2021 had also invested in capacity-building on the gender equality marker.

18. Gaps remained, however, and progress must be accelerated. It remained crucial to track and increase gender-related allocations and expenditures at all levels. It was also important to support universal coverage of the gender equality scorecard, strengthen country-level gender theme groups, enhance capacities for gender-sensitive programming and ensure the application of the gender equality marker at the country level. Capacity would grow exponentially if inter-agency collaboration and the uniform application of common standards were prioritized. The expansion of the remit of gender units without the allocation of proportionately more resources was an unacceptable trend that must be countered with a stronger focus on and sufficient resources for gender equality and women's empowerment. While there was no single panacea, mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes remained crucial to addressing gender inequality and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and would require system-wide support, joint action, and engagement from Member States.

19. **Ms. Joyini** (Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women), introducing the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-sixth session ([E/2022/27](#)), said that the priority theme of the session had been "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes". The agreed conclusions on the priority theme highlighted that gender inequality, climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters were intersectional challenges to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The agreed conclusions were a direct response to General Assembly resolution [72/305](#), and worked to identify challenges and make policy recommendations with a view to accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda.

20. Policy recommendations included strengthening normative, legal and policy frameworks; integrating gender perspectives into climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes; expanding gender-responsive finance; enhancing gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data; and fostering a gender-responsive transition. The agreed conclusions emphasized the need to fully implement existing

commitments and obligations to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls; they also stressed the critical role played by women in disaster response and COVID-19 recovery efforts.

21. As mandated by the Council, the Commission had reviewed its methods of work and had issued a recommendation on how best to utilize the year 2025 on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace; the draft resolutions under consideration had been the product of that review. The Commission placed a strong emphasis on evaluating progress in the implementation of agreed conclusions from previous sessions. It had therefore reviewed progress on the agreed conclusions from its sixty-first session on the theme "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work". The Commission had also held an interactive dialogue on the theme "Harnessing COVID-19 recovery for gender equality and a sustainable future", paying particular attention to how countries could build back better while prioritizing gender equality and women's empowerment.

22. During its sixty-seventh session, the Commission would consider the priority theme "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". The Commission would also review progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the sixty-second session on the theme "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls".

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-sixth session ([E/2022/27](#))

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

Section B

Draft resolution I: Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

Draft resolution II: Thirtieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

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

Section C

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-seventh session of the Commission

25. *The draft decision was adopted.*

26. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/77/38).

27. *It was so decided.*

28. **The President** said since that informal consultations were ongoing under agenda item 12 (c) with regard to a draft resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, the Council would return to that agenda item at its July management segment.

(b) Social development (A/77/61-E/2022/4, E/2022/26 and E/2022/61)

29. **Ms. Bas** (Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes (A/77/61-E/2022/4), said that the report analysed the overarching trends of technological change and their impact on families, especially the potential of digital technologies to help achieve work/family balance. The report noted that the pandemic had accelerated the transition to flexible work and had made it indispensable to adopt fair, flexible working policies that supported decent digital work and recognize the burden of caring activities within the family, which were still overwhelming carried out by women.

30. The report recommended enhancing support for working parents through the expansion of child and family benefits, paid family and sick leave, more flexible working arrangements and improved access to high-speed internet, especially for people in vulnerable situations. Investments in parental education could also help parents understand the technology that their children were using, thus helping them to avoid child neglect or abuse.

31. In the light of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, the report recommended investing in research and awareness-raising activities on the impact of technological, urbanization, migration, demographic and climate change mega-trends on families.

32. **Ms. Squeff** (Chair of the Commission for Social Development), introducing the report of the Commission for Social Development on its sixtieth session (E/2022/26), said that the priority theme of the hybrid session had been “Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: Eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda”. A ministerial forum had also been held on the theme “Strengthening multilateralism to deliver well-being and dignity for all by addressing food insecurity and the eradication of poverty, including through the promotion of sustainable food systems”. The theme of the high-level panel discussion on emerging issues had been “National policies and measures implemented by Member States to combat hunger and poverty in times of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond: Challenges to getting on track towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda”.

33. The report contained two draft resolutions and one draft decision to be considered by the Council. The first draft resolution covered the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development; the second draft resolution was on the aforementioned priority theme. In addition, the Commission had decided that the new priority theme for the February 2023 session would be “Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. That theme would allow the Commission to focus on highly concrete actions to generate employment, which was a fundamental condition for living with dignity.

34. Given the global context of rapidly increasing inflation and basic commodity prices, food shortages would have a major impact on the most vulnerable populations. The new priority theme would allow for the sharing of best practices for inclusive growth to enable countries to build back better, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development: fighting against poverty, realizing full employment and fostering social inclusion.

35. The draft resolution on the previous priority theme highlighted that the recent pandemic had slowed down progress in achieving of many of the Sustainable Development Goals ahead of 2030, in particular Goals 1, 2 and 10. It recognized that those in vulnerable situations, such as women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and people of African descent, had been hit the hardest

by the pandemic. It also recognized the need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty and urged Member States to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in food security programmes.

36. Discussions had revealed the importance of multisectoral coordination within Governments to address the intersectional challenges of hunger and poverty. Without creating any new structures, given the existence of the appropriate entities and experts, coordination must, however, also be expanded to include the multilateral system as a whole, including the International Labour Organization, UN-Women, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO. The problem of food insecurity was not one of availability but of accessibility. The current global context posed growing challenges with regard to achieving Goal 2. In that domain, Argentina recognized FAO as the primary competent expert on the subject.

37. Inclusivity was also important when holding meetings at the United Nations. It was crucial to respect multilingualism to keep languages alive but also to allow all stakeholders to participate. urged all those present to respect the multilingualism of the United Nations.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its sixtieth session (E/2022/26).

38. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter 1, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Draft resolution II: Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda

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

Section B

Draft decision I: Priority theme of the sixty-first session of the Commission for Social Development

Draft decision II: Report of the Commission for Social Development on its sixtieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session

40. *Draft decisions I and II were adopted.*

(d) Narcotic drugs (continued) (E/2022/28; E/INCB/2021/1)

41. **Mr. D'Hoop** (Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs), introducing the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-fifth session (E/2022/28) and accompanying his statement with a digital slide presentation, said that the work of the Commission had become much broader than the narrow agenda item "Narcotic drugs" might suggest. Over 1,300 participants representing 132 Member States, seven United Nations bodies and agencies, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 80 non-governmental organizations had taken part in the hybrid session. At the margins of the March meeting, 120 side events had been organized. The Commission had adopted four resolutions which addressed different aspects of the world drug problem related to the Sustainable Development Goals, such as: alternative development, including measures to protect the environment; links between illicit drug trafficking and illicit firearms trafficking; the diversion of non-scheduled chemicals; and comprehensive and scientific evidence-based early prevention. The Commission had also adopted decisions to add six new substances to the schedules of the 1961, 1971, and 1988 Conventions, following recommendations by the International Narcotics Control Board and WHO.

42. Member States were invited to commemorate the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at the next intersessional meeting of the Commission on 28 June 2022. At the event, the *World Drug Report 2022* would also be launched, presenting an overview of the current trends on global drug markets, the latest information on drug use, production and trafficking, and an analysis of various issues such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the relationship between drugs and conflict, and the impact on drugs on the environment.

43. In the light of recent developments that had aggravated the global lack of access to controlled medicines, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission had held a Joint Call to Action on Scaling Up the Implementation of International Drug Policy

Commitments on Improving Availability of and Access to Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes. Governments and the international community were urged to honour their international drug policy commitments on improving the availability of, and access to, controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes.

44. Following the 2019 adoption of a ministerial declaration on accelerating the implementation of the joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem, Member States had elaborated a multi-year workplan up to 2024 to address challenges identified in the declaration. The thematic discussion for 2022 would focus on responses not in conformity with the three international drug control conventions or with applicable international human rights obligations and which thus posed a challenge to the principle of common and shared responsibility.

45. The Commission had taken an active role, in collaboration with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in reviewing the work of subsidiary bodies to the Commission, including of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East. The Commission had submitted an assessment of its comprehensive review to the Council in April 2022. The Commission had also provided substantive written input to the 2022 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on the theme “Building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

46. **Ms. Pavadia** (President of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)), introducing the report of INCB for 2021 (E/INCB/2021/1), said that the report contained recommendations for Member States, the United Nations and other international and regional organizations based on its review of the implementation of the three international drug control conventions. INCB was committed to supporting Member States with treaty implementation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 3 and 16.

47. The main objective of both the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 was to ensure the availability of indispensable substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing diversion and misuse. National responses to INCB questionnaires in 2010, 2015 and 2018 had shown that the main barriers were a lack of capacity, underresourced health systems,

insufficient knowledge for accurately evaluating the needs of the population, inadequate regulation and too few adequately trained health-care professionals. Addressing those barriers would be the focus of a special supplement to the report.

48. Substantial global imbalances remained regarding the consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for licit purposes, with almost all consumption of opioid analgesics still being concentrated in the developed countries of Europe, North America and Oceania. Despite the fact that some psychotropic substances were essential for the treatment of anxiety disorders and epilepsy, their accessibility was largely confined to high-income countries. In 2020, 82.6 per cent of the world’s population, mainly in low- and middle-income countries, had consumed only 17 per cent of the total amount of morphine used for the management of pain. The report reiterated the need to increase levels of consumption and improve the prescription and use of opioid analgesics for medical purposes in all countries reporting inadequate or very inadequate levels of consumption. The COVID-19 pandemic and other ongoing humanitarian emergencies had demonstrated the need to ensure that availability of and access to controlled medicines extended to emergency situations; INCB had therefore been raising awareness and developing national learning programmes with a view to applying simplified control procedures for the export, transportation and provision of controlled medicines in emergency situations.

49. The thematic chapter of the report focused on illicit financial flows related to drug trafficking and their impact on development and security, including corruption, violence, instability and thwarted development. Lamentably, Africa lost approximately \$88.6 billion, or 3.7 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP), to illicit financial flows every year, a sum that was almost equivalent to its official developmental assistance and foreign direct investment.

50. The report also highlighted the risk of social media platforms glamourizing drug use and creating opportunities for drug purchasing. Governments were encouraged to use social media platforms in their drug prevention programmes and to establish partnerships with service providers to reduce risk. INCB had reiterated in its report that the legalization of non-medical use of drugs contravened the existing conventions. In drug-related criminal justice matters, proportionality and the use of alternatives to conviction and punishment could form an integral part of a balanced and human-rights-based approach to drug policy.

51. In March 2022, INCB had placed three fentanyl precursors under international control. As its 2021 *report on precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances* had highlighted significant shortcomings in controls at the national level over manufacture, trade and distribution, including Internet-facilitated trade, INCB had called for the enhancement of national precursor control and regulatory frameworks, noting that there was virtually no diversion from licit international trade. The Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) Programme was helping Member States to prevent trafficking in new psychoactive substances and non-medical synthetic opioids.

52. Member States, United Nations bodies and other international and regional organizations were urged to focus on supply and demand reduction strategies that also addressed illicit financial flows. Full implementation of the international drug control conventions would not only contribute to progress on the 2030 Agenda, but also to the protection of human rights.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2021 (E/INCB/2021/1)

53. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter 1, section A, of the report.

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

54. *Draft decision I was adopted.*

Draft decision II: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

55. *Draft decision II was adopted.*

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (continued)

(e) Population and development (E/2022/25)

56. **Mr. Manalo** (Chair of the Commission on Population and Development), introducing the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-fifth session (E/2022/25), said that the Commission had adopted a draft resolution on the special theme of the session, entitled “Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth” (E/CN.9/2022/L.6). The

draft resolution identified crucial linkages between population and development on one hand, and sustained and inclusive economic growth on the other, drawing attention to changing demographic and socioeconomic circumstances that might require the adjustment of pension, social security and health-care systems.

57. The Commission had decided to revert to its traditional five-year cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the latter’s contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda; the fifty-seventh session of the Commission in 2024 would be devoted to a comprehensive review of the Programme of Action.

58. The Commission’s 2022 annual session had included three expert panel discussions: on the reports of the Secretary-General; on the special theme of the session; and on the programme of work in population. A multi-stakeholder panel had also been organized to examine how the implementation of the Programme of Action could contribute to pandemic recovery and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4 and 5. The panel had highlighted the need to integrate population and development considerations in national development planning and voluntary national reviews. In addition, the panel had discussed how the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Population and Development might collaborate to improve evidence-based monitoring of progress toward the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and to strengthen the statistical capacity of countries, particularly in the global South.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-fifth session (E/2022/25)

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

Section A

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-fifth session and provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-sixth session

60. *Draft decision I was adopted.*

Draft decision II: Cycle for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

61. *Draft decision II was adopted.*

(a) Sustainable development (E/2022/33; E/2022/L.10)

62. **Ms. Fukuda-Parr** (Vice-Chair of the Committee for Development Policy), introducing the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-fourth session (E/2022/33), said that during the review of subsidiary bodies, the Committee had determined that its work was closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda and that its working methods were generally effective.

63. The Committee had focused on how industrial policies could be used to address the simultaneous challenges faced by Governments as they recovered from the COVID-19 crisis while managing the pre-existing issues of climate change and inequality. The Committee would continue to carefully consider the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 on the least developed countries and to promote the development of productive capabilities and adequate infrastructure in those countries.

64. In the Committee's analysis of voluntary national reviews for 2021, it had identified welcome improvements compared with earlier reports, especially regarding the commitment to leave no one behind and to target inequality and environmental concerns. However, there remained an apparent disconnect between those reports and the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda, due in part to a lack of substance and analysis in the reports which hindered the sharing of best practices. As the Secretary-General had said in his recent address to the Council, urgent action was needed to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals.

65. The Committee had reviewed the progress of one country that had recently graduated from the least developed country category, Vanuatu, and that of seven graduating countries, namely, Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, and Solomon Islands. It had expressed its concern at the limited national capacity of those countries to address various challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and debt sustainability. Countries were urged to continue reporting to the Committee on their progress. Meanwhile, the Committee had also adopted procedures for improved annual monitoring, strengthened measures to link monitoring to special graduation support, and started finalizing a new crisis response process. With a

view to expediting the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Committee had reviewed progress in developing the Sustainable Graduation Support Facility; it stressed the urgency of operationalizing it in 2022 and obtaining resource mobilization support from Member States and the international community.

66. **Mr. Norbu** (Observer for Bhutan) said that the report of the Committee for Development Policy was of significance to the least developed countries and to Bhutan in particular because it was preparing for graduation from among the least developed countries in December 2023. His delegation welcomed the Committee's recommendations to encourage the international community to adopt and implement evidence-based industrial policies and to maintain assistance and increase financing to graduating and recently graduated countries, which were essential measures to ensure that graduation was not disrupted or reversed. The Committee's analysis would support the efforts of the least developed countries towards accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and in the graduation process.

67. Bhutan had engaged in a number of ways with the Committee, including by contributing to consultations on the integrated sustainable graduation support facility and participating in a workshop on innovative financing and enhanced monitoring mechanisms. It would continue to engage as it approached graduation, including by considering the integration of the monitoring mechanisms with its thirteenth five-year plan, which would also be his country's smooth transition strategy.

68. Graduation from among the least developed countries must be viewed as an achievement and not as a punishment. All necessary support measures, as recommended by the Committee, needed to be put in place. Bhutan urged the United Nations system to support the Committee and the least developed countries in implementing the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and contributing towards the achievement of the Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

69. **Ms. Ruiz Tello** (Chile) said that the Committee's work in relation to countries that were graduating or that had recently graduated from among the least developed countries was carried out using three disadvantageous criteria, namely gross national income, human capital and vulnerability to economic and environmental disasters. There were growing requests from Member States to modernize the way that development was measured and to move away from a purely economic

perspective because it did not facilitate international development cooperation projects.

70. Chile welcomed the integration of voluntary national reviews into the work of the Committee but cautioned that they did not reflect the transformative ambition of the 2030 Agenda or effectively help incorporate lessons learned into political debates and processes. How successes and experience in development were shared needed to be enhanced.

71. **Mr. Murillo Ferrer** (Colombia) said that the design and implementation of measures that went beyond GDP and that reflected the complex dimensions of sustainable development had been essential to make progress. The Committee should extend assistance to countries in special situations but should also work on solutions to the challenges faced by a wide range of developing countries, including middle-income countries and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Colombia welcomed the inclusion in draft resolution [E/2022/L.10](#) of the need to develop urgently measures of progress that went beyond GDP.

72. The experience of the Committee could be taken into account in United Nations processes and mandates so that they would lead to a better understanding of sustainable development overall and to renewed support for developing countries, including those facing specific challenges.

73. **Ms. Fukuda-Parr** (Vice-Chair of the Committee for Development Policy) said that her Committee would continue to make efforts to support the smooth transition process and that it did not view the graduation process as a single event at a single point in time. Its analysis of the voluntary national reviews would continue, particularly in the run up to the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened at the level of Heads of State and Government.

74. The work of the Committee was not limited to the least developed countries. Its analytical work on development policies was relevant to all countries and its work programme included debt, the green transition and other matters which were universal challenges.

Draft resolution [E/2022/L.10](#): Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-fourth session

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

76. *Draft resolution [E/2022/L.10](#) was adopted.*

(f) Public administration and development ([E/2022/44](#))

77. **Ms. Fraser-Moleketi** (Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration), speaking via video link and introducing the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twenty-first session ([E/2022/44](#)), said that the session had highlighted that building forward better from the COVID-19 pandemic while advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda required improvements to public institutions at all levels, which was dependent on political will, a change of mindsets and the sound management of public resources. As the weakest countries and the poor had been disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of the pandemic, recovery measures should focus on sustainable economic support, including by helping countries to manage debt and inflation and to invest in essential public services.

78. For the first time, institutional challenges and opportunities that related to climate change and the protection of natural resources had been studied by the Committee, which had noted poor performance with regard to the environmental goals of the 2030 Agenda that could be attributable to institutional factors. There was a lack of leadership and coordination within and across Governments, particularly in federal systems, policy conflicts were frequent and ecosystem boundaries and financing arrangements were often misaligned with government jurisdictions. Simplified regulatory frameworks and enhanced capacity in natural capital accounting, along with other tools, had been seen as part of the solution.

79. Building strong institutions in conflict-affected settings remained a crucial challenge, often hampered by short-term security needs, political interests and dependence on external actors. Long-term engagement in institution-building helped to sustain peace in countries emerging from conflict. However, such efforts must be consistent with local norms and political realities, incorporating enhanced risk assessment and conflict prevention measures while addressing the root causes of conflict and strengthening tax collection systems.

80. To address the Committee's concerns about the need for effective governance for sustainable development at the subnational level, it recommended enhancing integrity and oversight, further efforts to promote government- and society-wide approaches and other reforms. Open and inclusive public financial management at all levels was essential to ensure government accountability and legitimacy and, in view

of budgetary pressures, the Committee recommended accelerated improvements in those areas to reinforce sustainable development and to curb corruption.

81. Building responsive and resilient institutions required more creative, flexible and integrated ways of working, focused on the needs of people. Therefore, efforts should focus on the promotion of a professional, public-sector workforce in which inequalities were addressed, investment were made in digital skills and competency frameworks and there were improvements to the design and delivery of public services.

82. Digital government offered immense opportunities if managed fairly, ethically and in a people-centred manner. However, limited access to technology risked leaving some people behind, leading to substantive inequality of opportunity. The Committee recommended that hybrid models of public service delivery be considered as a default, given that the situation was unlikely to change soon and disruption could still be expected.

83. It was critical to address the risks of disinformation and polarization. Depending on how they were deployed, technologies could build or damage trust in government. Implicit data bias in artificial intelligence was one concern which might require oversight mechanisms.

84. The Committee had engaged with voluntary national review countries and voluntary local review cities to promote interaction on the institutional aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 16, for which the potential merits of peer exchange platform were agreed.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Public Administration (E/2022/44)

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

86. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) recalled that the draft proposals in the report were non-binding.

Section A

Draft resolution: Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twenty-first session

87. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision: Dates and provisional agenda of the twenty-second session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

88. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Agenda item 10: The role of the United Nations system in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/2022/48 and A/77/70-E/2022/49)

Agenda item 13: Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B, 60/265, 61/16, 67/290, 68/1, 72/305 and 75/290 A and B (E/2022/L.9)

89. **Mr. Ferrero de Loma-Orsorio** (Chair of the Committee on World Food Security), introducing the report on the main decisions, outcomes and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security, transmitted in a note by the Secretary-General (A/77/70-E/2022/49), said that the world had changed markedly in the past year. Conflicts were a major threat to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including ending hunger and malnutrition, and the war in Ukraine had had an exponentially large impact on food production, access, trade and prices. The most vulnerable people were being affected first and foremost and, therefore, everything must be done to minimize the effects of the war on hunger. The most effective and least costly solution was peace.

90. Initiatives launched recently by various parties to respond to the food crisis were commendable and they had mobilized leadership, finances, political will and policies. The previous food crisis and COVID-19 recovery efforts had shown that meaningful and global policy coordination that listened to key stakeholders, including the most affected, was vital. Only by acting together would the problem be solved. Joint analysis and coordinated policy recommendations from the United Nations system was being fostered by the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, which the Committee stood ready to support.

91. The Committee had been reformed in 2009 precisely to respond to global food crises by serving as the most open, inclusive and intergovernmental platform for food security and nutrition within the United Nations. That platform was being used to foster global policy coordination, in close cooperation with the

President of the General Assembly and with the Secretary-General, to tackle the present food crisis.

92. At the first two sessions of the Committee held in 2021, voluntary guidelines on food systems and nutrition and policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches had been agreed. At the third session that year, the Committee had addressed the state of food security and nutrition in the world, including the lasting impacts of COVID-19, and had deliberated the potential implications of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, which had created momentum across various levels and interest groups and had triggered the Committee to identify ways it could fulfil its mandate more effectively and responsively. Discussions were also under way on how to enhance horizontal integration with other systems in the United Nations. The Committee's multi-year programme of work had been updated to focus on gender equality, women and girls' empowerment, youth engagement and employment, data collection and analysis in the context of food security, nutrition, agriculture and food systems and the reduction of inequalities. The High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition was preparing its third note, which would inform the strategic direction and programme of work of the Committee for the period from 2023 to 2027.

93. The Committee had also taken stock of the use and application of its policy recommendations in relation to climate change and water, and had called for more prominent inclusion of agriculture and food security at future Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

94. **Ms. Yamamoto** (Chair of UN-Nutrition and Assistant Director-General for Universal Health Coverage and Healthier Populations of the World Health Organization (WHO)), speaking via video link and introducing the report of UN-Nutrition, transmitted in a note by the Secretary-General (E/2022/48), said that a key focus of UN-Nutrition was to ensure planetary and human health, which were interlinked, through the promotion of healthy diets from sustainable and resilient food systems.

95. The year 2021 had not been a gentle year for humanity, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on people's health, livelihoods, food security and nutrition. The year 2022 had not started any better because the conflict in Ukraine had brought severe consequences for global food and nutrition security. Given the proportion of global exports of wheat and sunflowers for which Russia and Ukraine accounted, food prices had reached an unprecedented high and,

with energy prices running in parallel, global consumers, particularly the poorest, were paying an extraordinary cost. There would potentially be even more undernourished people soon, highlighting the fundamental importance of joint work towards sustainable and resilient food systems.

96. Throughout its first full year of activity, UN-Nutrition had worked as a collective force to support countries and various key global processes. The collaborative work of United Nations agencies to support Governments had meant that advocacy had been pursued with one voice and assistance had been deployed jointly. Their work had also been instrumental in the development of feedback loops between global and country processes.

97. The Food Systems Summit and twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had focused on sustainable healthy diets and good nutrition and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit had resulted in many financial and other commitments from Governments and other stakeholders to improve nutrition.

98. UN-Nutrition had provided an efficient coordination platform and evidence-based advice in support of the endorsement by the Committee on World Food Security of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. It had encouraged the use of guidelines in conjunction with evidence-based United Nations guidelines and recommendations. Inter-agency collaboration had also led to the development of the UN-Nutrition strategic plan for the period from 2022 to 2030, which would enable support for Governments in meeting global targets, realizing commitments made at the two aforementioned summits and implementing national pathways for food systems transformation.

99. Given that the African Union had declared 2022 the Year of Nutrition, UN-Nutrition was enhancing its support to the continent. It would also prioritize work on the interlinkages between nutrition and the crises of pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change at upcoming relevant international meetings.

100. Equity and universal access to safe and nutritious food and respect for nature and local cultures were the two ethical stances that needed to be ensured for planetary health and nutrition. UN-Nutrition would continue to combat malnutrition using approaches that focused on the shared health and ecosystems of humans and animals, on food systems and their sustainable design and operation, and on environmental and resource considerations.

101. As the culmination of 2030 Agenda approached, there was a pressing need to bring nutrition action to scale and transform systems to ensure access to healthy diets for all.

102. **Mr. Tavares** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the drivers of hunger and malnutrition were interrelated and included economic slowdowns, extreme weather events and climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine had made an already difficult situation worse.

103. Responding to global food insecurity and malnutrition required urgent, coherent, bottom-up and multidimensional actions involving various partners across levels. The FAO framework and vision for nutrition contributed to that response, as did the work of the Committee on World Food Security and UN-Nutrition. Along with the other organizations that formed the core membership of UN-Nutrition, FAO had set out a strategy to achieve more coherent policy and action in nutrition from the United Nations and was working on its implementation. The priorities of the strategy included convergence of key global processes and support for the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025). Jointly with WHO, FAO had prepared a report that described the progress achieved during the Decade and identified priorities for the coming years.

104. The Committee on World Food Security was a crucial partner. It offered an inclusive forum to discuss food security and nutrition, had a key role to play in the follow-up to the Food Systems Summit and produced relevant policy documents and guidelines, which FAO and others had supported, including by developing an evidence platform to facilitate the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and by providing technical support to the development of guidelines on gender equality and women and girls' empowerment and on youth engagement in agriculture.

105. FAO would welcome information on how the Committee on World Food Security was engaging with relevant United Nations processes, given that the drivers of hunger and malnutrition were interrelated. It also wished to know what the Committee's priority were for the coming months.

106. **Mr. Ferrero de Loma-Orsorio** (Chair of the Committee on World Food Security) said that the Committee was increasing its efforts to connect with other processes under way in the United Nations systems that tackled fundamental issues related to food security and nutrition, including by participating in relevant meetings and incorporating policy agreements

into the work of other United Nations forums, such as in relation to desertification, for example, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. Similar work was being carried out in relevant forums on climate change, the empowerment of women and girls, indigenous issues and health and nutrition.

107. The Committee's top priority in the coming months was to support efforts to tackle the ongoing food crisis and consideration was being given to how it could facilitate policy coordination, provide intergovernmental space to bring together all parties and hear directly from those affected by hunger and malnutrition. As a second priority, the Committee was looking at its long-term vision and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 2. Specific agreements were being developed with Governments and stakeholders that were key to the transformation of food systems, such as guidelines and recommendations on gender equality, youth and agroecology.

Draft decision E/2022/L.9: Review of the functional commissions and expert bodies of the Economic and Social Council

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

109. *Draft decision E/2022/L.9 was adopted.*

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

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

110. **The President** said that no advance documentation had been submitted and no draft proposal was expected under the item.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.