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Agenda item 7

**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its
fifty-ninth session**

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Jun Yamada (Japan)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the year 2020

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 9

United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 20th meeting, on 17 June 2019, the Committee considered programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance information for 2018 (A/74/6 (Sect. 11)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of the proposed programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies (E/AC.51/2019/CRP.1/Rev.2).

2. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa introduced the programme and, together with other representatives, responded to queries raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation and support for the programme and for the important work that the programme carried out for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Delegations commended the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Global Communications for their joint work in assisting the African Union, including through the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and welcomed the strengthening of



the regulatory framework for cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union, including the signing in January 2018 of a joint framework programme for the implementation of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. Regarding the strategy and external factors for 2020, referenced in paragraph 11.5, on African priorities and perspectives, a delegation observed that although there were some commonalities not all African countries shared the same perspective on peace, security and development. In that regard, it stressed that emphasis should be placed on African States and not just African countries.

5. A delegation emphasized the importance of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. Referring to the situation in 1998 and the evolution of peace and security and development challenges in Africa, the delegation noted that much remained to be done, despite several attempts to reorient and restructure the report. Noting that the report was a significant aspect of the agenda of the African Union on peace and security, particularly its Agenda 2063, the delegation observed that the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations could have been articulated more clearly in the report. In that regard, the delegation suggested that the focus and orientation of the report be reconsidered in order to respond better to the evolving challenges in Africa, as well as to the changing nature and scope of the partnership between the two organizations. The delegation also expressed its desire to work with the programme in the areas of conflict, peace and security and sustainable development.

6. It was observed that there was a strong focus on issues relating to women and gender, reflecting the programme's emphasis on incorporating the reform initiative of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the operational activities, deliverables and results of the programme. However, a delegation suggested that the programme needed a greater focus on young people, as 60 per cent of the population of Africa was under 25 years of age, and it was recalled that, in a previous discussion on programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, there had been calls for a greater focus on youth programmes, which the delegation considered to be a more sustainable path to development on the continent. Another emphasized the need to develop a programme within Africa of greater relevance to young people, and expressed support for the continued reflection of that development initiative in each of the subprogrammes.

7. A delegation commented that there was no reference in the programme to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization or the United Nations Human Settlement Programme, which undertook work with aspects of primordial importance to development in Africa. Another delegation asked why there had been a reduced level of cooperation between UNIDO, UN-Habitat and the Office of the Special Adviser.

8. In emphasizing the relevance of programme 9, a delegation expressed concern that there were insufficient resources for the implementation of the programme's activities and emphasized that the Secretary-General, in the context of his reform initiative, should give greater priority to the programme in order for the work of United Nations entities in the area of peace, security and development in Africa to be coordinated, integrated and harmonized. The delegation asked why there was an absence of aspects of evaluation, particularly in terms of the self-evaluation and external evaluation that had appeared in the majority of programmes that had previously been considered.

9. In the highlighted result in 2018 under subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, a

delegation sought clarification of the metrics used to derive the results and outcomes of the assessment that had been undertaken to assess the needs of the regional economic communities and their existing institutional capacity for conflict prevention, and which had concluded that there was a lack of gender integration in the peacemaking process. In the highlighted planned result for 2020, the same delegation commented on the use of the designation “Sahelian member states”, which, it observed, was not recognized as an official designation of any geographical area.

10. A delegation observed that, in comparing the programme narratives of the proposed programme budget for the period 2018–2019 and the proposed programme budget for 2020, there were significant changes to the objectives, particularly with regard to subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, and subprogramme 2, Regional coordination of and support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, both of which had previously dealt with support and coordination for NEPAD. Delegations observed that, in its highlighted result in 2018 and the highlighted planned result for 2020, the focus of subprogramme 1 was largely on the topic of conflict prevention, for which the Office of the Special Adviser had received no instructions from Member States. It was further observed that less attention had been paid to coordination and advocacy in support of NEPAD. A delegation said that the perception of the narrative of subprogramme 1 was that the Office had deviated fundamentally from its basic programmatic functions in relation to cooperation on NEPAD, further reinforcing the impression that there was a lack of coordination. In that regard, a delegation asked whether there had been a change to the mandate of the subprogramme. Another noted that subprogramme 1 accounted for more than 70 per cent of the resource and personnel requirements of the entire programme and, in that context, sought clarification of the rationale behind the proposed thematic focus of that subprogramme for 2020.

11. Several delegations expressed concern that the narrative of programme 9 was shifting from the core mandate of the Office of the Special Adviser. One also stressed that the phrase “peace, security and development nexus”, as used in the documents, had not been properly agreed upon in an intergovernmental format within the United Nations. Regarding the focus on that nexus, clarification was sought as to why the decision had been taken to focus on conflict prevention. A delegation observed that seeking to solve all of the problems of peace and security in Africa through that nexus alone was not justifiable. For example, foreign intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States was mentioned as a possible factor of conflict. The delegation requested that the term “peace, security and development nexus” be deleted from the narrative of the programme and from the annex, which would bring the text into line with wording that had been adopted in intergovernmental forums. Conversely, a delegation observed that Africa was the continent where peace and security were linked to development; it considered that link to be justified as famines struck only those countries where there was conflict, which usually led to serious humanitarian situations. The delegation reiterated that there could be no development without peace and stability. Another, concurring with that view, asked why there was an attempt to separate aspects that could not be separated.

12. Given the focus on the nexus between peace, security and development in Africa, a delegation asked why, in paragraph 11.3 of the overall orientation, under the section “Alignment with the Charter of the United Nations, the Sustainable Development Goals and other transformative agendas”, there was no mention of an alignment with international peace and security.

13. Another delegation observed that it was not within the Committee’s mandate to engage in a philosophical discussion on the nexus between peace and security and development; rather, it was for the Committee to discuss how the Secretariat was

translating specific mandates into programmatic activities, to point out where changes had been observed and to seek explanations for such changes.

14. Responding to the question by a delegation on the nexus, another delegation cited the example of Libya, which, before 2011, had been described as one of the most developed countries on the continent, providing extensive social welfare to its citizens. The delegation further explained that, in 2011, the actions of some countries, in violation of Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), had resulted in a regime change that had had domestic and regional consequences. In that regard, the delegation said that the issue of the nexus was not a constant and that there was no agreed-upon definition for the use of that term. In response, a delegation commented that the above-mentioned observations were inaccurate, as his country had not violated the resolution. Delegations expressed regret that an issue that fell outside of the remit of the Committee had been raised.

15. A delegation further observed that there was another office in programme 2, Political affairs, that dealt with the peace and security dimension, as well as programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, and, in that regard, it emphasized the importance of coordination to ensure that there was no overlap. With the focus on conflict prevention, a delegation noted that the plans of the Secretary-General included a more proactive approach to addressing the causes of conflicts, as well as in the response of regional entities in strengthening their institutional capacity in areas of conflict prevention. It asked whether those initiatives had led to a reduced number of conflicts in Africa.

16. Another delegation expressed concern that there was no reference in the objective of subprogramme 1 to South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and international cooperation in support of NEPAD and the 2030 Agenda.

17. Regarding subprogramme 2, the same delegation wished to know why, given that the objective of subprogramme 2 was to advance the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda within the Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027, NEPAD, which was a main partner in sustainable development in Africa, had been notably absent at an important coordination event in May 2019 organized by the Office of the Special Adviser.

18. A question was raised as to the changes to the subprogrammes and to the structure of the Office of the Special Adviser, and clarification was sought as to the kind of coordination provided by subprogramme 1, which focused on advocacy for NEPAD. A delegation enquired about the level of implementation of the objectives of the Office since April 2018 in relation to cooperation for NEPAD. Noting that there were two posts at the D-2 level focusing on coordination and advocacy, further clarification was sought as to how changes in the structure would affect the activities under the subprogrammes.

19. Regarding subprogramme 3, Public information and awareness activities in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, under the section "Challenge and response" in the highlighted planned result for 2020, a delegation noted that the challenge mentioned was to reach a younger audience and that it was thought that mobile phones would affect the use of printed publications. The delegation stated that the increased use of mobile devices did not in fact present a challenge, but rather should facilitate the dissemination of information.

20. As regards the *Africa Renewal* magazine, some delegations expressed interest in having the publication translated into Portuguese and Spanish as it had already been translated into Kiswahili and Chinese. A delegation noted that subprogramme 3 was improving access for students with disabilities, while also referring to the

introductory statement of the Special Adviser regarding the focus on inclusive education, particularly for persons with disabilities.

21. A delegation sought further information on the African Continental Free Trade Area and the impact on bilateral economic relations between countries of the agreement establishing that area. The delegation also highlighted that African countries had very effective cooperation mechanisms, citing as examples the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The delegation requested additional information on the "Silencing the Guns by 2020" initiative.

22. A delegation asked why regional and international efforts to achieve the goals of NEPAD under the 2030 Agenda had been omitted from subprogramme 3, unlike in previous programme narratives, and requested that those objectives be reinstated.

23. A delegation queried the statement made by the Special Adviser on the need to extend cooperation with other entities, asking whether the nature of the cooperation had changed without an evaluation being conducted. In the view of the delegation, there should be an evaluation before a decision was taken on the future orientation of the programme.
