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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 26 July 2012, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. De Alba (Vice-President) (Mexico)

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In the absence of Mr. Koterec (Slovakia), Mr. de Alba (Mexico), Vice-President, took the Chair.

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

Social and human rights questions

- (b) **Social development** (E/2012/3-A/67/61, E/2012/26-E/CN.5/2012/9 and Corr.1)
- (c) **Crime prevention and criminal justice** (E/2011/30/Add.1-E/CN.15/2011/21/Add.1, E/2012/30-E/CN.15/2012/24 and Corr.1 and 2 and E/2012/69)
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- (e) **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**
- (f) **Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**
- (g) **Human rights** (A/67/41, E/2011/22-E/C.12/2010/3, E/2012/22-E/C.12/2011/3, E/2012/51 and Corr.1 and E/2012/L.241)
- (h) **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** (E/2012/43-E/C.19/2012/13)
- (i) **Genetic privacy and non-discrimination** (E/2011/108 and E/2012/L.17)

1. **Ms. Bas** (Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introduced the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014" (E/2012/3-A/67/61). He said that the report described families as the bedrock of social stability and a potential active force for change. At the same time, families were changing drastically because communities and values were changing.

2. In that regard, the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 would be an opportunity to support families in better fulfilling their economic and nurturing roles. Efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve a balance between work and family life and promote intergenerational solidarity should take the key role of families into account. The report further recommended equitable means of delivering family-centred benefits, including cash transfers, and encouraged Governments

to strengthen the conditions of family leave, offer flexible working arrangements to parents, invest in pensions, and support programmes benefiting youth and older persons. It also discussed specific preparations for the twentieth anniversary and encouraged States to share good practices and data on family policy development.

3. **Ms. Verville** (President, Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute), made an introductory statement on reports related to crime prevention and criminal justice (E/2011/30/Add.1, E/2012/30 and Corr.1 and 2 and E/2012/69) and noted that, under new leadership, the Institute was recovering from the managerial and financial crises of recent years.

4. The Institute carried out action-oriented research and training, provided information and advisory services, and — at the request of Governments — implemented its activities at the interregional and national levels. In the past year it had addressed specialized areas of crime, justice, security governance and counter-terrorism, thereby contributing to crime prevention, the advancement of justice and the enhancement of human rights. The Institute also served as a platform for consultation and cooperation on sensitive issues in security governance, bringing together different partners such as Member States, research institutions, international organizations and civil society organizations.

5. In June 2012, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission had held a conference on the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centres of Excellence initiative. The objective of the initiative was to mitigate the risks related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material.

6. The Institute also provided technical assistance to Governments, at their request, in the establishment or improvement of programmes for the de-radicalization and rehabilitation of prisoners convicted of terrorist activities. In addition, it had taken initiatives to promote ethical drug trials in developing countries and to promote a gender-sensitive approach in treating substance abuse and addiction. Recently-approved initiatives focused on urban crime prevention and environmental crime.

7. While the Institute received no funding from the regular budget of the United Nations, over the past year, its funding and programme portfolio had grown from \$14.2 million to over \$54 million. Its funding situation remained precarious, however and it must expand its donor base to ensure predictable, sustainable funding.

8. A critical challenge for the Institute was to involve Member States more fully in its activities. Accordingly, she asked their representatives to circulate the Secretary-General's report on the Institute's work (E/CN.15/2012/4) among criminal-justice professionals in their respective countries.

9. **Mr. Yans** (President, International Narcotics Control Board) introduced reports on that body's work during 2011 and 2012 (documents E/2011/28/Add.1, E/2012/28 and E/INCB/2011/1). The Board was a quasi-judicial body responsible for monitoring and promoting the implementation of the three international drug control conventions. It sought to have an ongoing dialogue with Governments in an independent and impartial manner. In that context, the Board's annual report highlighted achievements and developments in narcotics control, and made a series of recommendations in that respect to Governments and regional and international organizations.

10. The success of the international drug control system depended on universal adherence to and implementation of treaties. Vigilance was required in order to insure that the international system of drug control was not weakened by policies or actions that did not respect the United Nations drug control treaties. The Board had noted with disquiet a legislative initiative in Uruguay to legalize the cultivation and use of cannabis. In addition, Bolivia had recently denounced the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and had then acceded to it again with reservations; it was up to the States parties to the Convention to take the final decision on how to proceed.

11. The Board's annual report called for preserving the integrity of the international drug control conventions. In its most recent annual report, the Board had highlighted the relationship between social cohesion and the illicit use of narcotics. Drug abuse could be one of the symptoms of social dislocation and injustice, unequal land distribution in rural areas, the uprooting of populations, rapid urbanization, the

weakening of the rule of law and corruption. The report made various recommendations concerning drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, local policing and the promotion of positive role models.

12. The Board had undertaken missions to a number of countries in order maintain a dialogue with their Governments and provide them with specific and constructive recommendations concerning their drug control efforts. The annual report also assessed the implementation of the Board's recommendations further to its missions undertaken between 2005 and 2008. The Board also strove to maintain a constructive dialogue with civil society and it recognized the excellent work that many non-governmental organizations were carrying out at the local level in terms of prevention, treatment and improved access to medication and palliative care.

13. The situation in Afghanistan remained very troubling. It was still the largest cannabis resin producer and one of the major opiate producers and consumers in the world. As such, the Board had requested the Afghan Government to take the needed steps towards reducing illicit poppy and cannabis cultivation. Should progress fail to be made in that connection, reconstruction and development in that country would remain fragile if not impossible.

14. The Board worked with Governments to facilitate legally-authorized access to narcotics for health, medical and scientific purposes. In order to improve the supply of those substances for medical purposes, the needs of each country needed to be assessed accurately. To that end the Board, together with the World Health Organization (WHO), had recently published a guide for national authorities on estimating requirements for substances under international control. It was also working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop an electronic authorization system for the legal import and export of substances under international control.

15. Lastly, he said that drug control efforts must be aimed not just at reducing supply but also demand. Governments should review their national prevention policies, including those relating to the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

16. **Mr. Diagne** (Head, Secretariat and Inter-Agency Service, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)), said that conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Somalia and Sudan

alone had forced more than 800,000 refugees into neighboring countries, the highest number in more than a decade. Recent fighting in Mali had prompted more than 250,000 people to leave the country, and nearly 120,000 people had fled turbulence in the Syrian Arab Republic. While new conflicts continued to multiply in 2011, old ones lingered in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and Somalia. The humanitarian consequences of new emergencies and drawn-out conflicts alike could only be addressed through strong coordination mechanisms and political resolve by States.

17. UNHCR continued to work with its partners to address protracted situations affecting Afghan, Angolan, Liberian and Rwandan refugees, and displacements remaining from the former Yugoslavia. In order to address those situations more comprehensively, a “joint transitional solutions initiative” to promote the economic self-reliance of refugees had been launched in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.

18. UNHCR had also continued to participate actively in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and had undertaken to nominate candidates to a roster of experienced senior staff qualified to take on Humanitarian Coordinator functions in large-scale emergencies. In addition, to enhance its own emergency response capacity, UNHCR had adopted a new approach to emergency management that relied on strong, centralized coordination, on the ability to draw on the entire range of organizational capacities, resources and expertise to support operations, and on standby partnership arrangements. In 2011, almost 250 staff members from nine partner organizations had been deployed to emergency operations around the world.

19. UNHCR was working to ensure that the senior coordinators in the three global clusters which it led in the inter-agency response to situations of internal displacement — protection, emergency shelter and camp management — were fully equipped to manage large-scale emergencies involving internally displaced persons.

20. **Mr. Radcliffe** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)), said that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had requested additional meeting time. He

encouraged the Council members to take the necessary steps to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which had reached eight of the ten ratifications required for entry into force.

21. The most recent report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/2012/51) focused on the human rights of older persons, whose situation had not received the same degree of attention as that of women, children, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities. The report offered an overview of the human rights coverage of older persons, including an analysis of existing international instruments and gaps in the protection regime. It should be seen as a contribution to the ongoing discussions of the General Assembly’s working group on the human rights of older persons, established by Assembly resolution 65/182.

22. **Mr. Makriyiannis** (Observer for Cyprus), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that, regarding social development issues, the Europe 2020 Strategy was based on the fundamental conviction that economic and social objectives contributed to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The promotion of decent work, social protection and gender equality policies played an essential role in reducing poverty and enhancing social inclusion. The European goal of reducing the number of people living at risk of poverty and social exclusion by at least 20 million by the year 2020 included employment and education targets.

23. The European Union and its member States reiterated their commitment to the promotion of social integration and social cohesion policies through a multilateral system which benefited from the contributions of all relevant stakeholders. In response to the demographic trends in Europe, its Governments were very active in advancing the situation of older persons, including through the promotion of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, in line with international standards. The European Union was also addressing high unemployment among young people and promoting the rights of people with disabilities. It was highly committed to the implementation of the

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was being carried out through the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.

24. **Mr. De León Huerta** (Mexico) said that the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held in May 2012, had focused on the problem of violence against indigenous women. In addition, detailed discussions had been held concerning food security, the protection of traditional knowledge, the need for training programmes in advocacy skills for indigenous youth and the Permanent Forum's planned study on the situation of indigenous persons with disabilities. The Permanent Forum should strive to coordinate its activities with those of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in order to prevent duplication of efforts and make the best use of resources.

25. At a recent informal meeting the Chair of the Permanent Forum had answered questions from Member States concerning the modalities for the World Conference on Indigenous Issues to be held in 2014. It was hoped that all United Nations mechanisms working on indigenous issues would support the organization of the Conference, and that the event would include the participation of experts on issues of mutual interest.

26. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile) said that, starting in 2013, as a member of the Commission for Social Development, his Government would seek to share its experience in building an inclusive society and protecting vulnerable populations. Chile had made progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals before the 2015 deadline; it had met targets on ending hunger and child undernutrition, reduced maternal and infant mortality rates and reduced the national poverty and extreme poverty levels to 14 per cent and 2.8 per cent, respectively. Inequality remained a challenge, both in terms of income distribution and between genders and ethnic groups.

27. Despite the earthquake of 2010, the country had achieved economic growth, resulting in more than half a million new jobs, many of which provided stable, formal employment to women who were heads of households. Job training and job-seeking support were being enhanced to reduce youth unemployment.

28. The State's concept of inclusive growth encompassed the promotion of social rights, women's empowerment and support for families through measures in line with the recommendations set out in the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond, such as social transfer programmes targeting families living in extreme poverty and enhanced support for working women.

29. Greater attention was being given to young people's health and public demands for better quality education had resulted in new scholarships for indigenous students and those living in extreme poverty. Assistance to support the autonomy of persons with disabilities and older persons was also being enhanced.

30. Chile was doing its utmost to promote cooperation within the Latin American and Caribbean region and actively participated in various innovative international cooperation initiatives. The country would continue to engage with the Council to strengthen its critical role in formulating recommendations that advanced the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

31. **Mr. Nikolaichik** (Belarus) said that youth poverty and unemployment were directly related to job creation, sustainable development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The delegation of Belarus welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014, in particular, its approaches to decent work, work-family balance and actions to promote social integration and intergenerational solidarity. For its part, the Government of Belarus provided job placement for young people graduating from institutions of higher learning, benefits for families and a range of social, labour tax and other support measures.

32. Efforts by the international community to combat organized transnational crime must continue and, in that context, it was important to build national anti-crime capacity, including through timely technical assistance from donors. Implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention against Corruption would strengthen the international anti-crime legal framework. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Trafficking in

Persons and Smuggling of Migrants would contribute to the effective implementation of existing instruments. A multidisciplinary, inter-agency approach was necessary, including greater UNODC participation in projects under the auspices of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN-GIFT), the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Global Migration Group.

33. Unilateral coercive measures targeting particular States should be eliminated. During her recent visit to Zimbabwe, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had stated that economic sanctions had a negative impact on human rights. Sanctions applied by the European Union and the United States of America against Belarus were cause for concern: they demonstrated utter disregard for citizens of Belarus employed at the targeted enterprises and adversely affected State social programmes. The United Nations should take steps to eliminate the practice of such unilateral, coercive measures. Such politically motivated decisions not only placed constraints on bilateral cooperation but also impeded the development of international trade, undermined national sovereignty and violated the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, norms of international law and the rules of the multilateral trading system.

34. Belarus fully supported General Assembly resolution 66/156 on human rights and unilateral coercive measures. The Economic and Social Council should ensure that States implementing unilateral coercive measures against other countries were required to abide by that resolution.

35. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador) said that the protection and promotion of the rights of migrants and their families was a major foreign policy priority for his Government and, in that context, noted his delegation's belief that the draft resolution proposed by the Commission on efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families (contained in E/2012/30) omitted several important issues.

36. In particular, the draft resolution failed to urge Member States to ratify and better implement the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It could also have recognized more explicitly the great contributions made by civil society to the protection of migrants against violence and, in line

with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) (A/66/L.56), could call on States to avoid approaches in sustainable development initiatives that might aggravate the vulnerability of migrants.

37. The thematic report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation of older persons (E/2012/51) would serve as an important tool during the upcoming meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, to be held in August 2012. Population ageing constituted one of the most significant demographic transformations of the twenty-first century, with the global percentage of persons over the age of 60 expected to reach 20 per cent by 2050. His delegation hoped that, on the basis of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the Working Group could make progress towards addressing the gaps in the protection of human rights of older persons that had been highlighted in the report.

38. The present Government of El Salvador had made a historic shift in support of indigenous persons and had followed with interest the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which had included the participation of indigenous Salvadorans. Significant steps taken by other United Nations bodies had included the adoption in March 2012 by the Commission on the Status of Women of resolution 56/4, for which El Salvador had acted as a main sponsor, recognizing indigenous women as key actors in eradicating poverty and hunger. El Salvador also welcomed the Council's resolution on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (E/2012/L.11), which, for the first time, acknowledged the role played by indigenous peoples in all stages of humanitarian action. His delegation hoped that those contributions would support preparations for the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Issues. El Salvador would be participating in consultations on the modalities of the Conference and expected that the recommendations contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues on its eleventh session (E/2012/42) would inform related discussions.

39. **Mr. Kim Chan** (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation welcomed the meaningful discussions on poverty eradication that had been held by the Commission for Social Development at its fiftieth session. To help bridge the economic and social gaps within and between countries, his Government had

hosted the fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011, which had resulted in improved development cooperation. Follow-up on implementation of the outcomes of the Forum would be monitored by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which had been launched in June 2012. It was hoped that Member States and United Nations development agencies would engage with the new forum.

40. Concerted global efforts were required to address the many crimes perpetrated by transnational criminal groups, which ranged from drug-related offences to trafficking in persons. For its part, the Korean Government had agreed to host the World Customs Organization Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for the Asia-Pacific region, which had been established in January 2012, in order to facilitate the exchange of information to counter trade in drugs and firearms. In addition, domestic legislation was being amended with a view to ratifying the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.

41. His Government supported the dedicated efforts by UNHCR to protect refugees and internally displaced persons. In the Republic of Korea, preparations were being made to implement the recently adopted Refugee Act, which provided for expanded protection of refugees and called for the continued full compliance of the State with the principle of non-refoulement. His Government remained committed to promoting the social integration of all, in particular the most vulnerable groups which were experiencing the worst effects of the global economic crisis.

42. **Mr. Rutilo** (Argentina) said that his delegation welcomed the thematic report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation of older persons (E/2012/51) as evidence of increasing awareness of the needs of that group. The report made clear that, despite the growing numbers of older persons in the world, their human rights were frequently overlooked in national and international policies. Older persons often faced poverty, age discrimination, violence and limited access to basic services and the existing international human rights framework largely failed to provide sufficient protection of the rights of older persons.

43. The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution

65/182, could begin to address some of those gaps. He supported the recommendation contained in the report that urged Member States to explore various measures to strengthen the international protection regime for older persons. He urged Member States to participate in the Working Group's third session, which would be held in August 2012.

44. **Ms. Prorok** (Ukraine) said that her delegation welcomed the new focus on poverty eradication within the Commission for Social Development: poverty eradication was clearly linked with many issues in the social development agenda, including social integration and the promotion of decent work for all.

45. Her delegation also welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Council's 2012 Ministerial Declaration entitled "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals". Policies aimed at increasing productive capacity and creating decent jobs were critical in order to curb the effects of a prolonged jobs crisis in the short term and to make economic growth more sustainable and equitable in the long term.

46. Ukraine's 2010-2014 economic reform programme set out actions to ensure social inclusion and reduce poverty. In addition, measures had been adopted to foster higher living standards, job creation and improved wages; to provide health care and increased social protection for children, older persons and other vulnerable groups; and to improve income distribution, bridge social inequalities and develop the middle class. Since 2009, the Government had substantially increased spending on social programmes. The decreasing poverty levels and increases in household earnings bore evidence that poverty reduction targets could be met in Ukraine by 2014.

47. Lastly, she highlighted the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 as an opportunity to foster momentum for the development of family-oriented policies as an integral component of sustainable development.

48. **Mr. Kasap** (Ukraine) said that his Government remained committed to the goal of enhancing global cooperation to eliminate the threats posed by transnational organized crime, corruption, drug trafficking, terrorism and human trafficking. In that

regard, it welcomed the recommendations set out in the report of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-first session (E/2012/30), which would help to strengthen the mandate of UNODC.

49. The various forms of transnational organized crime undermined socio-economic progress, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; new manifestations of transnational organized crimes also presented previously unknown challenges to criminal justice systems. He commended the planned comprehensive study of cybercrime to be undertaken by UNODC, which responded to an urgent need to strengthen the response to cybercrime within the international community and the private sector.

50. His Government acknowledged the key role played by the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB) in ensuring implementation of the provisions of the international drug control conventions. His delegation welcomed the Vienna Declaration, which had been adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan in February 2012. Full implementation of the recommendations set out in the Declaration would enable more effective actions to address illicit trafficking in opiates.

51. Ukraine attached great importance to its cooperation with UNODC in the areas of drug control, HIV prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons, and capacity building within its criminal justice system. The fight against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking was considered a core priority to protect national security. His Government affirmed that addressing the global drug problem was a shared responsibility of the international community; its own response was founded on an integrated, multidisciplinary and evidence-based approach.

52. **Mr. Rakovsky** (Russian Federation) said that, despite the negative impact of the protracted global financial crisis, the Russian leadership was meeting its social obligations to its citizens. Not one social programme had been cancelled, and over the past three years, unemployment in the Russian Federation had dropped from 9.4 to 6.2 per cent. In December, employment issues would be discussed at an international high-level conference on implementation

of the Decent Work Agenda, to be held in Moscow at the initiative of President Putin.

53. Over the past decade, the number of people in the Russian Federation living below the poverty level had been reduced by half. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had been ratified. Much was being done to strengthen the institution of the family.

54. The Russian Federation supported the efforts of the United Nations to combat crime and corruption, including review mechanisms for the Convention against Corruption and the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and, in particular, commended UNODC on its efforts to build law enforcement capacity in Afghanistan, its neighbors and other States affected by trafficking in opiates from Afghanistan were commendable. The illicit cultivation production and sale of drugs in Afghanistan, including by Taliban elements, posed a threat to international peace and stability. Anti-drug initiatives in the region should be coordinated by the United Nations, with the involvement of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

55. The approach of certain States to combating illicit drug trafficking was cause for concern and could lead to a weakening of the international anti-narcotics legal framework. The Russian Federation objected to the so-called informal civil society consultations held during the session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Supposedly rooted in resolution 1996/31 of the Economic and Social Council, that exercise practice was based on an excessively broad interpretation of the resolution.

56. **Mr. Mamani** (Observer for the Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which was considered one of the three major treaties that made up the international legal framework on narcotics, did not take into account the practices or rights of indigenous peoples. The indigenous peoples of the Andes and Amazon regions of South America had chewed coca leaves as an integral part of their ancestral, cultural and medicinal traditions for over seven thousand years. In March 2009, the Plurinational State of Bolivia had submitted an amendment which sought to eliminate the historic misconceptions about and prejudice against indigenous populations contained in sections of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. The amendment had been grounded in international law, including the 2005

Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the 1989 Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention of the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

57. However, 17 States had rejected the amendment on the grounds that it would undermine the integrity of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. Accordingly, pursuant to article 46 of the Convention and in line with its domestic legislation, on 29 June 2011, his Government had denounced the Convention, citing its reservations to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), which contravened its constitutional principles concerning the culture and values of the 36 indigenous nationalities that made up the Plurinational State of Bolivia. Notwithstanding, the State would continue to adhere to the Convention and the 1972 Protocol thereto in the context of the fight against drug trafficking and the illegal cultivation of the coca plant. He reaffirmed that the Plurinational State of Bolivia would continue to be a party to the Convention without interruption and that its reservation would not affect any other States party to the Convention.

58. It was important to note that the international community had made progress in acknowledging the customs of indigenous people, most notably in the “Special communiqué on the original and ancestral coca, part of the natural heritage of Bolivia and Peru” of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and in resolution AG/RES.2706 (XLII-O/12) adopted at the forty-second session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), which recognized that the custom of chewing the coca leaf was an ancestral cultural manifestation of the peoples of Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia that must be respected by the international community.

59. His Government supported the recommendations contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its eleventh session (E/2012/43). He recalled that the outcomes of the high-level event to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should serve as a basis for preparations for the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. His delegation welcomed the discussions that had been held during the session of the

Permanent Forum and within the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples aimed at ensuring the full participation of indigenous peoples in preparations for the World Conference.

60. The representatives of indigenous peoples of the Plurinational State of Bolivia who had participated in the session of the Permanent Forum believed that the entity offered them a unique opportunity express their concerns directly within the United Nations system; that was despite the fact that their at times dissenting views had not been included in the report of the session.

61. Lastly, his delegation wished to support and draw the Council’s attention to the Permanent Forum’s recommendation that its name should be changed to “Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”.

62. **Ms. Hewanpola** (Australia) said that the deliberations concerning the doctrine of discovery that had been held during the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had prompted participants to reflect on ways to achieve a reconciled future between Governments and indigenous peoples. Her Government had demonstrated its commitment to that goal in 2008, when it had issued a national apology to indigenous Australians.

63. Australia had strongly supported proposals to hold the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014, as it would provide an opportunity for indigenous peoples, civil society and national Governments to share their experiences and best practices in realizing the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

64. Her Government was participating in joint efforts to ensure that the modalities of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples were adopted in an opportune manner so as to facilitate the attendance of high-level Government representatives and the full participation of indigenous people. Australia was also committed to ensuring that the perspectives of all indigenous peoples, including women and persons with disabilities, would be an integral part of preparations for the World Conference and, as recommended by the Permanent Forum, that the World Conference would be a constructive process that promoted action-oriented outcomes in support of the rights of indigenous persons.

65. **Ms. Changtrakul** (Observer for Thailand) said that the draft resolutions and draft decisions proposed in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-first session (E/2012/30) aimed to strengthen international cooperation and United Nations assistance in the fight against transnational organized crime and ensure that the Commission remained relevant in the face of new and evolving security threats.

66. Thailand appreciated the role played by the International Narcotics Control Board in monitoring implementation of international drug control treaties. Her delegation welcomed the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to promote both demand and supply reduction strategies, including alternative development programmes, as a means of reducing the illicit drug problem. In that regard, it looked forward to the International Conference on Alternative Development, to be held in Lima in November 2012, the importance of which had been highlighted in draft resolutions proposed in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fifth session (E/2012/28). The Commission's draft resolution 55/5, which identified strategies to address the specific needs of women in the context of drug demand reduction programmes, was also a welcome measure. She urged Member States to support the measures proposed by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which took into account the concerns of all regions.

67. **Ms. Agladze** (Observer for Georgia) said that her delegation welcomed the draft resolution on the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems, contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-first session (E/2012/30). Georgia had long been a proponent of international recognition of the right to legal aid and had been a main sponsor of the resolution proposed by the Commission. The eventual adoption of the Guidelines in a General Assembly resolution would be a significant step in promoting the right to a fair trial establishing legal aid as a vital component of the rule of law.

68. **Mr. Fiallo** (Ecuador) said that, in order to achieve social development and equality, the international community must pursue goals aimed at ensuring all people the full enjoyment of a life of dignity, rather than objectives that merely focused on

human subsistence and were measured by market consumption. Such a shift in approach would require a renewed awareness of the value of collective action. Reducing inequalities within and among countries was the best means of attaining peace.

69. Assessments of progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the commitments resulting from the 1995 World Summit for Social Development had not sufficiently considered social factors. In that regard, his delegation emphasized the need to strengthen the Council and its functional commissions with a view to increasing its global impact and promoting a more inclusive society, new systems of production and a more democratic distribution of resources.

70. Ecuador's present Government was making unprecedented social investments in health, education, housing and social protection as part of its new dynamic social policy. The social integration of persons with disabilities had become a constitutional mandate, making implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities a major priority.

71. His Government was committed to implementing the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and was striving to change racist and discriminatory patterns that were the legacy of Ecuador's colonial past. A multinational plan to eliminate racial discrimination and ethnic and cultural exclusion was an important State policy. In 2012, by means of affirmative action policies and public open competitions, indigenous persons and persons of African descent had been appointed as secretaries to the country's foreign service for the first time.

72. His delegation welcomed the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its eleventh session (E/2012/43). In particular, it supported the Forum's call for implementation of resolution 56/4 of the Commission on the Status of Women on indigenous women as key actors in poverty and hunger eradication, for which Ecuador had served as one of the main sponsors. The Permanent Forum's discussion of the special theme "The Doctrine of Discovery: its enduring impact on indigenous peoples and the right to redress for past conquests" and the high-level event to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples had also been important developments. Lastly, his delegation supported the

Permanent Forum's recommendation that the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples should be held in New York in September 2014 in order to encourage the highest level of participation of Heads of State or Government. The World Conference would provide an outstanding opportunity to promote the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, as enshrined in the Declaration.

73. **Mr. John** (Chair, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues) said that indigenous peoples in both developed and developing countries, numbering some 370 million people globally, faced discrimination, marginalization, poverty and unemployment, along with disproportionately high health risks and limited access to basic services. Many had been dispossessed from their lands as a result of development undertaken without their involvement or consent. Nevertheless, they maintained their own identities, cultural heritage and knowledge systems and worked with Government for a better future.

74. Through the establishment of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2000, the visibility of indigenous peoples had been raised within the United Nations system. The intense discussions at the Forum's eleventh session, held in May 2012, had covered issues including the doctrine of discovery, climate change, violence against indigenous women, human rights, the work of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), food sovereignty, and the modalities of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The discussion of regional issues had focused on indigenous populations of Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia.

75. Introducing the report of the Permanent Forum on its eleventh session (E/2012/43), he drew attention to the recommendations to the United Nations system and the three draft decisions proposed for adoption by the Council, which could contribute to achieving the ambitious mandate conferred on the Forum. The draft decisions called for a three-day international expert group meeting on the theme "Indigenous youth: identity, challenges and hope: articles 14, 17, 21 and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples"; established the venue and dates of the twelfth session of the Forum; and set out the proposed provisional agenda and documentation for that session. He noted that the twelfth session would include a review of progress on the Permanent Forum's

past recommendations in the areas of health, education and culture.

76. He drew the Council's attention to paragraph 17 of the report, in which the Council was strongly urged to recommend that the name of the Forum should be changed to "Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". The Forum had been named before the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the proposed change would align the name of the Permanent Forum with the nomenclature of related mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Recommendations contained in the report on the fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development (E/2012/26-E/CN.5/2012/9 and Corr.1)

77. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fiftieth session.

(b) Social development

Section A

Draft resolution I entitled "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development"

Draft resolution II entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development"

Draft resolution III entitled "Poverty eradication"

Draft resolution IV entitled "Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family"

Draft resolution V entitled "Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda"

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

Section B

Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fiftieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session"

79. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-first session (E/2011/30/Add.1-E/CN.15/2011/21/Add.1)

80. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twentieth session.

Section A

Draft resolution entitled “Strategy for the period 2012-2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”

Section B

Draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twentieth session”

81. *The draft resolution and the draft decision were adopted.*

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-first session (E/2012/30-E/CN.15/2012/24 and Corr.1 and Corr.2)

82. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-first session.

Section A

Draft resolution I entitled “Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners”

Draft resolution II entitled “Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, particularly in the areas related to the United Nations system-wide approach to fighting transnational organized crime and drug trafficking”

Draft resolution III entitled “United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems”

Draft resolution IV entitled “Promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families”

Draft resolution V entitled “Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”

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

Section B

Draft resolution I entitled “Improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development”

Draft resolution II entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations”

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

Section C

Draft decision I entitled “Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-first session and provisional agenda for its twenty-second session”

Draft decision II entitled “Appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute”

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

(d) Narcotic drugs

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-fourth session (E/2011/28/Add.1-E/CN.7/2011/15/Add.1)

86. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-fourth session.

Section A

Draft resolution entitled “Strategy for the period 2012-2015 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”

Section B

Draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-fourth session”

87. *The draft resolution and the draft decision were adopted.*

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fifth session (E/2012/28-E/CN.7/2012/18)

88. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fifth session.

Draft decision I entitled “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fifth session and provisional agenda for its fifty-sixth session”

Draft decision II entitled “Report of the International Narcotics Control Board”

89. Draft decisions I and II were adopted.

(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Recommendations contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its eleventh session (E/2012/43-E/C.19/2012/13).

90. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its eleventh session.

Draft decision I entitled “International expert group meeting on the theme ‘Indigenous youth: identity, challenges and hope: articles 14, 17, 21 and 25 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples’”

Draft decision II entitled “Venue and dates of the twelfth session of the Permanent Forum”

Draft decision III entitled “Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its eleventh session and provisional agenda for its twelfth session”

91. Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted.

(i) Genetic privacy and non-discrimination

Draft resolution entitled “Genetic privacy and non-discrimination” (E/2012/L.17)

92. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2012/L.17, which contained no programme budget implications.

93. The draft resolution was adopted.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.