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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 19 July 1995, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)
(Vice-President)

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In the absence of Mr. Kamal (Pakistan) Mr. Papadatos (Greece),
Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES,
CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (agenda item 6) (continued)

- (d) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)
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- (n) INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (continued)
(A/50/201-E/1995/74)
- (o) STATISTICS (continued) (E/1995/28)
- (p) ENERGY (continued) (E/1995/25 and Corr.1)

Mr. ELO (Director for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)), replying to the questions asked by representatives and having first thanked all those who had expressed support for the Decade, said that a number of delegations had stressed the importance of the linkages between national disasters and sustainable development, of regional and national programmes, of people-centred action, of the necessity to work with a broad range of partners, including the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, of information and communication systems, of programme evaluation, and of sharing knowledge and technology. The crucial issue of financial support, both budgetary and extrabudgetary, had also been mentioned in several statements. The fact that only four years of the Decade still remained, in which much would have to be accomplished and that needs would have to be assessed and a consensus reached on how to proceed when it came to an end, had also been mentioned.

The representative of the Philippines had raised the question of access to scientific, technical, global and project reports. If delegations so

desired, the reports could be made officially available to the General Assembly. Work was proceeding on a report on early-warning systems - a topic commented on by the representative of Thailand - for presentation to the General Assembly at its forthcoming session. The representative of Nigeria had mentioned the need to establish regional centres. He agreed that they could contribute to strengthening regional and national capacity, and he would be happy to cooperate with countries and institutions in strengthening such networks. High-level councils and other mechanisms, the need for which had been stressed by the representative of China, were scheduled for special consideration after the conclusion of the Council's session. The Secretariat would also be following up the recommendation of the UNDR0 mission to Angola, mentioned by the representative of that country, and would be in contact with its mission in Geneva.

He regretted the delay in submitting reports to which reference had been made during the discussion. They were due to a lack of resources, which the Secretariat was endeavouring to address. Information had, however, been shared with delegations through the Contact Group and they had been consulted as fully as possible.

Mr. KELLOWAY (Australia) said that his delegation had not yet received a clear answer to its question about which aspects of the AIDS problem would continue to be dealt with by the World Health Organization (WHO) and which would be transferred to UNAIDS.

Dr. BERTOZZI (World Health Organization) said that until the indicative budget for the 1996-1997 biennium had been approved by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board at its meeting a few days previously, it had not been possible for UNAIDS to elaborate work plans. Only when those plans had been outlined down to the activity level, and UNAIDS had decided which activities it wished to retain as part of its own programme and which it wished to ask the six sponsors to carry out on its behalf, would it be possible to give final answers about the distribution of responsibilities.

WHO had, however, been considering how HIV/AIDS issues were already integrated or should in future be integrated into its programmes, and he had referred in his earlier statement to some examples: the integration of HIV and STD (sexually-transmitted diseases) prevention into maternal, child-health, and family-planning services had already to some extent been effected; blood safety, including support for related laboratory services, was

also already a WHO responsibility which would probably be retained; tuberculosis, too, was another existing WHO concern which had a clear overlap with AIDS.

There were many other shared issues - information on AIDS in school curricula, the essential drug programme and other drug-related matters, AIDS morbidity and mortality for which responsibilities would have to be allocated, not only between UNAIDS and WHO but among other agencies and programmes as well. Another obvious example for decision was the reporting of statistics. There he thought that the likely outcome would be that UNAIDS would take over responsibility for the surveillance, monitoring and reporting of HIV infection, but that the information would then be harmonized with the global health reporting carried out annually by WHO. There was wider scope for consultation with the 18 programmes most closely related to the UNAIDS work plan once that had been developed. Until that plan had been developed and the necessary consultations with other agencies' programmes had taken place, no final answer could be given on the allocation of responsibilities.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the remaining reports and related documents before it under agenda item 6.

Science and technology for development (agenda item 6, sub-item (d))

The Council adopted the draft resolution, entitled "Science and technology for development", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its second session (E/1995/31).

The Council adopted the draft decision, entitled "Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section B, of the same report.

The Council took note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations system support for science and technology in Africa (A/50/125-E/1995/19) and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/50/125/Add.1-E/1995/19/Add.1).

Transport of Dangerous Goods (agenda item 6, sub-item (j))

The Council adopted draft resolution I, entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods", in chapter I of the report on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (E/1995/56).

The Council adopted draft resolution II, entitled "Role of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in the development of a harmonized system of classification and labelling of chemicals for implementing Chapter 19 of Agenda 21", contained in chapter I of the same report.

Women in development (agenda item 6, sub-item (k))

The Council took note of the report on effective mobilization and integration of women in development: gender issues in macroeconomic policy-making and development planning (E/1995/75).

Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (agenda item 6, sub-item (l))

The Council took note of the note by the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the global AIDS strategy (A/50/175-E/1995/57), and of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/1995/71).

International Drinking Supply and Sanitation Decade (agenda item 6, sub-item (m))

The Council took note of the report on the progress made in providing safe water supply and sanitation for all during the first half of the 1990s (A/50/213-E/1995/87).

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (agenda item 6, sub-item (n))

The Council took note of the report on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/50/201-E/1995/74).

Statistics (agenda item 6, sub-item (o))

The Council adopted the draft resolution, entitled "2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme", contained in chapter I, section A, paragraph 1, of the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-eighth session (E/1995/28).

The Council adopted the draft decision, entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission", contained in chapter I, section B, paragraph 2, of the same report.

The Council endorsed the recommendation contained in chapter XVII, paragraph 103, subparagraph (c), of the same report that the twenty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission be held in New York from 10 to 14 February 1997.

Energy (agenda item 6, sub-item (p))

The Council adopted the draft decision, entitled "Report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development on its special session and provisional agenda and documentation for the second session of the Committee", contained in chapter I of the report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development on its special session (E/1995/25 and Corr.1).

The Council took note of the oral report by the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development on the format in which the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy for Development should present their work.

The PRESIDENT said that, as the 12th meeting of the Group of Experts on Public Administration and Finance would not be held until 31 July to 11 August 1995, the Council was not required to take any action at its current session on agenda item 6, sub-item (q), on public administration and development. With that exception, it had completed its consideration of item 6 of its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.