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Summary record of the 28th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 8 July, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Rybakov (Vice-President) (Belarus)

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In the absence of Ms. King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. Rybakov (Belarus), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 7: Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (continued) (E/2019/L.21)

Draft resolution E/2019/L.21: Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

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

2. **Ms. Melnik** (Russian Federation) said that although the draft resolution did not fully reflect her delegation's views, it had joined the consensus. She particularly valued the efforts of all participants in the negotiations to agree on a paragraph on the regional measurement of reform of the United Nations development system. Unfortunately, the paragraph proposed by her delegation on developing a common donor report template for voluntary contributions been omitted. Such a template was necessary to avoid politicization and secure States' cooperation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Illegitimate, unilateral limitations and other measures which restricted the participation of certain companies or subcontractors in development activities created unfair competition and undermined joint efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. *Draft resolution E/2019/L.21 was adopted.*

5. **Ms. Kabua** (Observer for the Marshall Islands), speaking on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum, said that the review of multi-country offices was a critical element of the reform. The United Nations must support the implementation by small island developing States of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The members of the Forum welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to open a multi-country office in the North Pacific. United Nations country team support would be essential, and they looked forward to further discussions and a clear road map for establishing the office.

6. **Ms. Azucena** (Philippines) said that her delegation had consistently stressed the need for the operational activities of the United Nations development system to be aligned with the needs of

Member States and the results of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. The Philippines remained committed to the review as a platform for ensuring accountability, accelerating sustainable development and guiding and coordinating the United Nations development system. Her delegation looked forward to the provision by the Secretary-General of comprehensive, evidence-based and analytical annual reports on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, covering all provisions of that resolution and of Assembly resolution 72/279. It supported the request for further inclusive consultations on the regional review and the multi-country office review, as well as for the Secretary-General to continue to provide briefing notes and informal briefings on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

Agenda item 4: Elections, nominations, confirmation and appointments (continued)

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

7. **The President** said that, in accordance with resolution 2000/22 and decision 2001/316 of the Council, eight members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues were appointed by the President of the Council and eight were elected by the members of the Council, all for a three-year term of office. The Council had elected seven members in May 2019 and, following the requisite consultations, the President had decided to appoint the following eight experts for a term beginning on 1 January 2020: Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Chad), Ms. Anne Nuorgam (Finland), Mr. Phoolman Chaudhary (Nepal), Mr. Geoffrey Scott Roth (United States of America), Mr. Simón Freddy Condo Riveros (Plurinational State of Bolivia), Mr. Darío José Mejía Montalvo (Colombia), Mr. Alexey Tsykarev (Russian Federation) and Ms. Hannah McGlade (Australia).

Agenda item 8: Integration segment (continued)

Panel discussion: "Prosperous and peaceful societies in the SDG era"

8. **Ms. Bárcena** (Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), moderator, said that the panellists would discuss how to overcome the most pressing challenges to prosperous and peaceful societies; what the United Nations system, including the Council, could do to address those challenges; and how the coordination and

effectiveness of the Council and its subsidiary bodies could be enhanced.

9. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the most pressing challenges were inequality and extreme poverty, followed by high unemployment, which seemed destined to grow with the introduction of new technologies. Small island States in the region were heavily indebted and highly vulnerable to climate change, and a large majority of the region's people did not trust public institutions, which were tainted by a culture of privilege reflected, *inter alia*, in high revenue losses from tax avoidance.

10. **Ms. Kupchyna** (Permanent Representative of Belarus to the International Organizations in Vienna and Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice), panellist, said that among the most serious threats to prosperous and peaceful societies were cybercrime, including the online sexual exploitation and abuse of children; terrorism; organized crime; homicide; and crimes motivated by intolerance or discrimination. To build prosperous and peaceful societies, all members of society must be engaged in crime prevention, with special attention to young people. It was also essential to fight corruption and to ensure access to justice for all, including through legal aid for the poorest and most vulnerable.

11. The United Nations system should foster the mutually supporting character of its work and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that connection, the Commission had, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/183](#) on enhancing role of the Commission in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, considered the information provided by Member States on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 in their voluntary national reviews for consideration by the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The Commission had also collected input from Member States and other stakeholders on how it could contribute to the review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and had brought that information to the attention of the high-level political forum. The theme of the fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Kyoto, Japan, in April 2020, was "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda". The United Nations must also support Member States in strengthening their public institutions. To that end, the Commission developed standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and mandated the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance. The

Commission had adopted resolutions on such assistance at its twenty-eighth session, held in May 2019.

12. should. Coordination among the Council's subsidiary bodies was essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and upholding human rights. To that end, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had been participating in each other's meetings in person or remotely. She encouraged United Nations Secretariat entities and specialized agencies to participate in the sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Council members and observers were invited to attend the fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in April 2020. The Council should raise the visibility of its subsidiary bodies, especially those based in Vienna, by facilitating the participation of those bodies' Chairs in Council meetings.

13. **Mr. Margaryan** (Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations and Chair of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women), panellist, said that the most pressing challenges to prosperous and peaceful societies were eradicating poverty and reducing inequality, making climate change action gender-responsive, preventing conflict and sustaining peace. There was urgent need for a supportive policy framework that enabled parents to care for their children without being condemned to poverty and for action to make women equal partners in building and sustaining peace.

14. To tackle those issues, the United Nations system should integrate proven policy approaches and agree on steps to ensure their implementation. It should also refine, strengthen and deepen commitments and ensure accountability. To improve coordination and effectiveness, the entities of the United Nations system needed to capitalize on their comparative advantages and share responsibility for results.

15. As the principal United Nations policymaking body in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the Commission on the Status of Women contributed to the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda in those areas. It was essential for all the Council's subsidiary bodies to consistently mainstream a gender perspective in supporting the implementation of the Agenda. The Commission would continue to reach out to other bodies to support such a perspective.

16. **Mr. Oumarou** (Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnerships of the International Labour

Organization), panellist, said that the Centenary Declaration on the Future of Work highlighted the major challenges of persistent income inequality, rapid technological change, demographic shifts and climate change. In particular, income inequality had increased to the point of threatening international security, and new technologies must be used to create decent work. It was also essential to explore human-centred design as a way of tackling climate change. Every effort must be made to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 8, on decent work and economic growth, which was critical for the achievement of other Goals. The United Nations system should work to bring policies in the areas of trade, macroeconomics, development and human rights into line with labour standards. It should also take steps to ensure that people were in control of technology, which must be a tool for development and the promotion of human rights. Lastly, the United Nations system should strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation.

17. The International Labour Organization had survived for 100 years because of its strong system of governance, which was based on dialogue and cooperation among Governments, employers and workers. United Nations governance would be improved if non-governmental organizations, labour and business played a more important role.

18. **Mr. Fernández de Soto Valderrama** (Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations), lead discussant, said that Colombia had stressed the interrelated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals from the outset of the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda. The breakthrough consensus achieved with the adoption of the Agenda should inspire perseverance in the face of the current difficulties. The Goals had driven growth in every region of the world and had proved a powerful tool for uniting State and non-State actors around initiatives and policies for leaving no one behind.

19. Colombia had been one of the first countries to incorporate the Goals into its national development plan, one of whose main pillars was closing gaps among people, among regions and between cities and rural areas. His Government was working hard to overcome such obstacles to peace as the emergence of new armed groups and the persistence of illegal economic activities. With the support of the international community, it had implemented projects that provided an alternative to illicit crops for former combatants, including women. It was also grappling with unprecedented migration. However, it remained committed to implementing the peace agreement and to fulfilling its commitments both to the Colombian people

and to the international community, which had demonstrated true solidarity.

20. The United Nations had excellent platforms for dealing with the interrelationships between peace and development, including the Peacebuilding Commission, which provided a mechanism for countries in conflict and post-conflict situations to share lessons learned with each other as well as with the main organs of the United Nations and outside institutions.

21. **Mr. Houth** (Cambodia) said that developing countries, especially least developed countries, could not achieve prosperous and peaceful societies without financing for development. Cambodia placed high hopes in the reform of the United Nations development system, but was concerned about the Organization's financial situation, which must be resolved soon. Peaceful and prosperous societies could be achieved only with the political commitment of all parties and were not facilitated by economic pressure, isolation or discriminatory measures. Peace was a prerequisite for and strengthened by inclusive and equitable development.

22. **Mr. Oumarou** (Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnerships of the International Labour Organization) said that sustainable, decent work was critical for ensuring prosperity, combating inequalities and saving the planet. Production models and policies with a strong social component must be established with the participation of all stakeholders, including Member States and organizations representing labour and employers. United Nations system entities should adopt systems of governance that included those stakeholders.

23. **Mr. Margaryan** (Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations and Chair of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women) said that resources were unfairly distributed, and, for women and girls, essential services such as education and health care remained underfunded, if not unavailable. Increased funding was essential to close the resource gap.

24. **Ms. Kupchyna** (Permanent Representative of Belarus to the International Organizations in Vienna and Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice) said that successfully addressing crime in all its forms and manifestations was essential for peaceful and prosperous societies and would require stronger regional and international cooperation.

Panel discussion: "Partnering for people, planet and prosperity"

25. **Mr. Harris** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist of the

Department of Economic and Social Affairs), moderator, said that the discussion would focus on gaps and challenges for developing an integrated approach to policymaking, the transformative policies and actions required to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and how the coordination and effectiveness of the United Nations system and the Council's subsidiary bodies could be improved.

26. **Ms. Fraser-Moleketi** (Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration), panellist, speaking via video link, said that the model of governance that had guided public policies for 40 years had increased inequalities in income, living conditions, prospects, influence and power for the majority of the population. Sustainable Development Goal 16, on peace, justice and strong institutions, offered an objective-oriented, inclusive model for reducing dysfunction and disaffection, with an emphasis on who paid for and who gained from development efforts, instead of excellence for its own sake.

27. As a result of the advice provided by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on means of enabling integrated policymaking and promoting institutional coherence, the Council had adopted resolution 2018/12, which called for institutions to develop more creative, flexible and integrated ways of working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and noted that the achievement of the Goals did not necessarily require the creation of new institutions, and resolution 2016/26, which encouraged Governments to develop institutional arrangements and mechanisms for supporting the implementation of coherent and integrated policies for achieving the Goals, noting that sustained leadership would be required to that end and that cooperation, consultation, engagement, dialogue and partnership should be the modus operandi of public administrations and public servants. A higher priority should be given to progress towards Goal 16, which was a key enabler of progress towards the other Goals. The 11 principles of effective governance for sustainable development, developed by the Committee, should be used to ensure that effectiveness, accountability and inclusiveness were reflected in frameworks for the achievement of the Goals.

28. In order to develop transformative policies, public institutions must balance stability and reliability with speed and disruptive action. The principles of effective governance should be applied at all levels, and there should be more focus on capacity development and long-term planning.

29. To improve the coordination of the United Nations system and the Council's subsidiary bodies, progress

towards Goal 16 should be reviewed at each high-level political forum on sustainable development. Building the Council system should not be seen as a technocratic exercise.

30. **Mr. Tripathi** (Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme), panellist, said that the development of methodologies for assessing progress in the indicators of the Goals was a priority for enabling integrated policymaking. It was also necessary to engage all stakeholders and to ensure that the institutions leading implementation and fostering coordination had sufficient power and authority to break down ministerial silos.

31. Policies promoting sustainable consumption and production, sustainable finance and nature-based solutions could be transformative, as could green fiscal policies. The ongoing reform of the development system must strengthen cooperation and coordination between United Nations bodies and avoid duplication of effort. In addition, the high-level political forum should make better use of the information provided by the organizations.

32. **Mr. Mohieldin** (Senior Vice-President of the World Bank Group), panellist, said that, if economic growth slowed as forecast in the Global Economic Prospects report recently issued by the World Bank Group, it would be very difficult to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Given the persistence of gaps related to data and financing, the Goals should be implemented not only at the national level but also at the community level, which would do much to solve the problem of silos. The international community needed to evaluate what was working and what was not, and to intensify efforts to achieve the Goals by 2030.

33. **Mr. Salovaara** (Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations), lead discussant, said that transformative action required leadership and a framework for all stakeholders to contribute to sustainable development. To promote continuity and integrative policy on sustainable development, his Government encouraged all political actors to produce policy frameworks that went beyond the four-year parliamentary cycle. It also integrated sustainable development into its tax system and budgets. His Government set the priorities for sustainable development, but it asked companies, city authorities, schools and individuals to identify concrete actions that they could take to meet the objectives. At the global level, the United Nations Environment Programme was the main environmental coordination body of the United Nations system.

34. **Mr. Rattray** (Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations), lead discussant, said that the strengthening of his country's policy framework had been central to horizontal and vertical integration across government. Jamaica had adopted its first national development plan with the goal of achieving developed-country status by 2030. The plan had been developed through a whole-of-society approach and integrated into the national development framework, with the objective of adapting the Sustainable Development Goals to the Jamaican context. The main mechanism for translating the plan into action was the medium-term socioeconomic policy framework. The United Nations system and the Council's subsidiary bodies, including the regional economic commission, could help his Government by providing practical, tailored assistance to improve coordination, implementation and evaluation capacity.

35. Jamaica had developed a transformative climate change policy framework and action plan to mainstream climate change in national development policy and planning. The framework not only built resilience to climate change but also promoted the empowerment of rural women, environmentally sustainable livelihoods and the resilience of various economic sectors.

36. **Ms. Azucena** (Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations), lead discussant, said that her country's second voluntary national review of the status of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals emphasized the creation of synergies between government and non-government actions to ensure inclusiveness and equality. The broad consultative process undertaken to prepare the review had been as beneficial as the review itself. The strategic priorities of her country's partnership with the United Nations were based on the pillars of peace, prosperity, people and planet, which her Government approached in an integrated manner, emphasizing the quality rather than the quantity of growth.

37. To address gaps and challenges in developing integrated policies, it was necessary to build capacity, promote meaningful engagement with and among stakeholders, and improve data collection, sharing and access. Transformative policies required systemic innovation; policy and social innovation; the eradication of unsustainable practices; policy experimentation; and engagement with actors and stakeholders. Platforms such as the Global Environment Facility could be used to address complex issues in an integrated manner.

38. Regarding the integration and coordination of the United Nations system and the Council's subsidiary

bodies, the General Assembly, the Council and the governing bodies of the United Nations development system had complementary roles and responsibilities and needed to be further strengthened to fulfil their mandates. The ongoing reform measures would have to be watched closely, as they would likely bring their own coordination and governance challenges.

39. **Mr. Mohieldin** (Senior Vice-President of the World Bank Group) said that policies must be reflected in budgets. For example, a circular economy policy must be accompanied by tax measures, budget lines for incentives and the elimination of subsidies for non-renewable resources. It was also important for budgets to ensure funding at the community level.

40. The World Bank was a member of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and, through the International Development Association, provided funding and technical assistance to improve the data available to monitor progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It also provided over \$100 billion in leverage financing and engaged with the International Monetary Fund and others to improve budget preparations and public expenditure reviews. In partnership with national Governments, it supported local projects that were aligned with the Goals. Partnerships had been formed with the private sector, especially in the area of climate finance.

41. **Ms. Fraser-Moleketi** (Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration), speaking via video link, said that local government played an important role in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Decentralization, and by extension policy integration at the local level, often failed when local governments were given heavy responsibilities without adequate budgetary resources or effective institutions. National and local government machinery was critical for delivering public services to the most vulnerable. In closing, she wished to reiterate the central importance of Goal 16 and of promoting collaboration across government and with regional institutions.

42. **Mr. Tripathi** (Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme) said that it was important to provide adequate funds for the mainstreaming of cross-cutting themes. Regarding the Jamaican experience of vertical and horizontal integration, he wished to stress that all development was local. As the representative of the Philippines had pointed out, the voluntary national review process was important because it was inclusive. In that connection, although some countries had made significant efforts to ensure consultation with citizens,

civil society, local governments and the private sector, others had not. He hoped that recent agreements such as the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean would be replicated.

Closing of the segment

43. **Mr. Liu Zhenmin** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that, despite the importance of policy integration and coherence to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a number of countries continued to cite the development of integrated policies as a major challenge. Some had established interministerial commissions and other institutional mechanisms to improve coherence, integration and multisectoral involvement. Priority must be given to mobilizing the whole of government and the whole of society around the Sustainable Development Goals, including at the regional and local levels. During the integration segment, participants had shared ideas related to addressing the trade-offs involved in ensuring that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was people-centred and respected the environment, and had challenged the United Nations system and the Council's subsidiary bodies to better support policy integration and contribute to the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. To overcome silo mentalities, which hampered the achievement of the Goals, public policies must address inequalities and poverty in an environmentally friendly way. Reviews of the implementation of the Agenda must take account of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

44. Given that millions were at risk of being pushed behind by more frequent and intense natural disasters and by unemployment, inadequate policies, lack of respect for human rights, the absence of meaningful participation and accountability, and deep-rooted discrimination, Member States must, in order to achieve the Goals, redouble their efforts to empower people and ensure inclusiveness and equality. In supporting policy integration and coherence to address the intersecting forms of deprivation and sources of discrimination that hindered people from overcoming poverty and living with dignity, the international community must address the trade-offs involved in leaving no one behind. Participatory processes could help to reconcile competing interests, manage trade-offs, maximize synergies and ensure that programmes and policies met the needs of the vulnerable. The Secretariat would continue to support the Council's work to integrate the

economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

45. **The President** said that the participants in the discussions at the integration segment had emphasized that many of the obstacles to implementing the 2030 Agenda were structural and required transformative change, and that the complex nature of ensuring inclusiveness required actions in multiple areas. The key elements of the Agenda – people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership – were interconnected, and concern for people should be at the centre of every effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The expertise of the Council's subsidiary bodies and the United Nations development system should be fully utilized to explore the multiple facets of the Goals, seek synergies between the targets and address trade-offs. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination was a unique platform for strategic policy debate, a driver of integration and coherence within the system, and a natural interlocutor for the Council.

46. The first cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development would conclude in July 2019, and the global response to the 2030 Agenda would be reviewed at the meeting of the forum to be held under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2019. That meeting, and other high-level events held under the Assembly's auspices in the same month, would demonstrate the central principles of the Agenda – universality, leaving no one behind, global partnership and balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development. Through the integration segment, the Council had harnessed the analysis and policy recommendations of its functional commissions and expert bodies, and had contributed to the preparation of the thematic reviews, conducted at the high-level political forum, of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.