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### Summary record of the 38th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 24 July 2019, at 10 a.m.

*President:* Ms. Juul (Vice-President) . . . . . (Norway)

## Contents

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

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

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti

(e) African countries emerging from conflict

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

(h) International cooperation in tax matters (*continued*)

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

(g) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Agenda item 15: Regional cooperation (*continued*)

Conclusion of the 2019 session of the Council

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*In the absence of Ms. King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Ms. Juul (Norway), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

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

1. **The President** drew the Council's attention to the list of candidates for election, which had been circulated to the delegations.

*Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women*

2. **The President** invited the Council to consider an outstanding vacancy on the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. She had been informed that Argentina had presented its candidature for the outstanding seat allocated to the Latin American and Caribbean States, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2020 and expiring on 31 December 2022. She took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidate proposed.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. *Argentina was elected a member of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women by acclamation.*

*Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2019/9/Add.15)*

5. **The President** invited the Council to consider an outstanding vacancy for a member elected by Governments to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. She had been advised by the Chair of the Group of Eastern European States for May 2019 that the Group had endorsed the candidature of Mr. Sven-Erik Soosaar of Estonia to fill the outstanding vacancy from the region, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2020 and expiring on 31 December 2022. In the absence of any other nominations, she took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidate proposed.

6. *It was so decided.*

7. *Mr. Sven-Erik Soosaar (Estonia) was elected a member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues by acclamation.*

*Committee for the United Nations Population Award*

8. **The President** invited the Council to consider an outstanding vacancy on the Committee for the United Nations Population Award. She had been informed that

Trinidad and Tobago had presented its candidature for the outstanding seat allocated to the Latin American and Caribbean States, for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2021. She took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidate proposed.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. *Trinidad and Tobago was elected a member of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award by acclamation.*

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

**(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti (E/2019/80; E/2019/L.23)**

11. **Ms. Blais** (Canada), Chair of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, introduced draft resolution [E/2019/L.23](#), in which the Council would welcome the annual report of the Advisory Group ([E/2019/80](#)) and the recommendations contained therein, and would decide to extend the mandate of the Advisory Group for another year.

12. Introducing the report of the Advisory Group, she said that the Group's work that year had come at a crucial juncture, ahead of the transition from the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), a peacekeeping operation, to the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), a new special political mission. During its visits to Washington, D.C., and Haiti, the Group had witnessed important efforts by Haitians to guarantee their country's future development and well-being. However, the situation remained fragile. The major political, economic, social and humanitarian challenges facing Haiti had a profound effect on the country's security, stability and prospects for socioeconomic development; hence the need for Haiti to act quickly and efficiently to address those difficulties. The Group encouraged the Government of Haiti to accelerate the implementation of its national development plans in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The international community should extend more stable and predictable funding to Haiti and ensure that its efforts were coordinated and aligned with the priorities set by the Government of Haiti. Finally, the United Nations system should improve its coordination and consultation with the Government of Haiti and act as one, particularly in view of the transition from MINUJUSTH to BINUH. BINUH and the United Nations country team should have the resources necessary to carry out their activities when the mandate of MINUJUSTH ended.

13. During its time in Haiti, the Advisory Group had visited humanitarian projects established by the United Nations and its partners to combat food insecurity and meet the basic needs of vulnerable people who had been displaced within Haiti and across the border. The visits had underscored the country's fragile humanitarian situation – 2.6 million Haitians, or nearly one in four, were currently food insecure, and high inflation was making staple products unaffordable. More must be done to remedy the situation. The international community was collectively responsible for responding to the 2019 Haiti Humanitarian Response Plan to ensure that the situation did not deteriorate further.

14. The Advisory Group had observed that Haitians lacked confidence in their Government and institutions. An inclusive national dialogue must be established urgently to facilitate political, social and economic progress. Lastly, sustainable economic development was crucial to ensuring prosperity and stability in Haiti. The country's immense economic potential must be unlocked so that Haiti could achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address the exclusion and economic inequalities that were the root causes of the political deadlock and deteriorating security situation.

15. **Mr. Diallo** (Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti) said that the previous few days had brought welcome developments, with the Haitian President's appointment of a prime minister after protracted political negotiations. Moreover, negotiations were under way to form a cabinet and present a policy statement to the Parliament for approval so that the new Government could start working. The news had come as a relief to the United Nations country team, which for several months had been forced, in the absence of a Government, to defer many urgent political decisions regarding the country's development. He trusted that, in the coming weeks and months, the country team would have the interlocutor it needed to continue delivering much-needed development and humanitarian assistance.

16. No new cases of cholera had been reported in Haiti since February 2019, following the epidemic that had gripped the country since 2010. He called on Member States to continue supporting the efforts of the Government's emergency teams to deliver Haiti from the scourge.

17. The Haitian National Police, whose numbers had grown from 2,500 in 2004 to nearly 15,500 at present, had become more professional and capable of providing the safety and security that the State required to operate. Its concerted effort to rid the country of gang violence had borne fruit in recent days, culminating in the arrest

of a notorious gang leader. After months of almost unchecked gang violence, that success sent a signal to the Haitian people that lawlessness would not prevail and that the Government was capable of providing safety and security and upholding the rule of law.

18. Positive developments notwithstanding, difficulties persisted, including a protracted political crisis. However, the imminent formation of a new Government indicated that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's calls for dialogue to resolve the impasse had been heeded. The political dialogue must also forge a new consensus and involve the entire country in formulating a vision for the future beyond the restoration of political stability.

19. The underfunding of humanitarian activities was a matter of grave concern. Given that only 16 per cent of the funds needed to implement the Humanitarian Response Plan had been received and that 25 per cent of the population was deemed to be food insecure, resources were crucial, both to implement the Plan and to invest in food production, which would stabilize the food market and thereby enable working Haitians to afford food.

20. Lastly, helping Haiti would require not only humanitarian support but also investment and development. To date, funding allocated for the country had been frozen, owing to the failure to reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund. He therefore called on Member States to persuade donors and international financial institutions to supply the funding that the Government needed to continue investing in social services. Only a functioning economy that provided Haitians with jobs and opportunities to seek a better future, leaving no one behind, would ensure the success of a political deal.

21. **Mr. Fernández de Soto Valderrama** (Colombia) said that his Government stood with Haiti in that country's bid to achieve economic and social development, maintain democracy and confront its many challenges. Some of those challenges stemmed from the significant changes to come in the support provided by the United Nations, with the transition from a peacekeeping operation to a special political mission. It would be necessary to secure sufficient financial backing, including from international financial institutions; to that end, his delegation had advocated in the Fifth Committee for the provision of tangible support. The mandate of the special political mission would include the promotion of political stability, good governance and the rule of law. His delegation welcomed the inclusion in the mandate of support for an inclusive inter-Haitian national dialogue and the protection of human rights. Haiti was in particular need

of the coordinated, coherent work of the United Nations system, an indispensable effort that Colombia stood ready to support.

22. Speaking as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, he said that the Commission would support the Government of Haiti in consolidating the gains made in those areas. With the election of members of the Chamber of Deputies scheduled for October, he hoped that the recent political agreements would make elections possible and thereby strengthen institutions.

23. **Mr. Correa Nasser Silva** (Brazil) said that his delegation was proud to sponsor the draft resolution. Brazil welcomed the positive developments in Haiti and was hopeful that the transition from MINUJUSTH to BINUH would be a smooth one, facilitating efforts to continue helping Haiti on its path to development, peace and stability.

24. **Mr. Saint-Hilaire** (Observer for Haiti) said that the Ad Hoc Advisory Group's continued engagement would be vital in helping Haiti to tackle its especially complex political, economic and security challenges and creating conditions conducive to the country's long-term development. The political impasse in which the country had been mired for several months made an inclusive national dialogue between the main political and economic actors an absolute necessity. In that regard, the recent appointment of a new prime minister constituted a step in the right direction.

25. In response to the urgent security situation, Haitian security forces had been required to become more effective in combating all forms of violence and the proliferation of armed gangs in particular, as evidenced by the recent arrest of the powerful gang leader Arnel Joseph. The socioeconomic situation of the country was especially dire, with the national institutions and currency weakened, unemployment soaring and the lack of adequate, predictable financing bringing about an overall deterioration in living conditions. A coordinated and sustained response would be necessary in order to address urgent situations involving education, health and basic infrastructure.

26. The meetings held in May 2019 with representatives of various sectors and national actors had been encouraging. The Advisory Group had engaged in open dialogue with the Haitian President and had acknowledged the efforts made by the Haitian authorities and various civil society organizations, within limited means, to address urgent situations and place the country on a path to stability and sustainable development. He commended the Advisory Group's promising efforts in 2019, illustrated by the quality of its discussions with the relevant national and international institutions; the

relevance of the conclusions and recommendations set forth in its report; its plea to the Secretary-General to establish a strong special political mission with sufficient, predictable resources; and the various meetings convened at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations and within the Organization itself to draw the attention of Member States to the demands of the evolving situation in Haiti.

27. He was convinced that the ambitious action of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group would be capable of spurring additional donors to support long-term development in Haiti. To that end, he called upon the members of the Advisory Group to establish a road map for the coming year, based on the Haitian President's wish to convene a high-level meeting of the members of the Advisory Group in the margins of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, and support for sustainable development initiatives to be launched by the Haitian authorities on the tenth anniversary of the 2010 earthquake. In conclusion, he urged the Advisory Group to continue to engage in advocacy with the development partners of Haiti in order to assist national authorities and all stakeholders in their bid to take command of the security situation and promote stability and long-term development in the country.

28. **Mr. Pronin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had engaged constructively in the negotiations on draft resolution [E/2019/L.23](#), by which the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group would be extended for another year. The Russian Federation looked forward to seeing the Advisory Group engage further with the Haitian authorities on issues under its purview. In response to the comments made by some delegations about the possible alteration or expansion of the Advisory Group's mandate, he affirmed his delegation's conviction that the mandate would be established by the draft resolution. Having read the draft resolution carefully, he had found nothing in it that suggested that the Group's mandate would be altered. The draft resolution should therefore be the primary source of the mandate, which it reaffirmed but did not alter. On that understanding, his delegation would consider the draft resolution.

*Draft resolution [E/2019/L.23](#): Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti*

29. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Benin, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

30. Delivering a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 31 of the Council's rules of procedure, she said that, should the draft

resolution be adopted, it was estimated that the support to be provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group would consist of: (a) travel for members of the Group and up to two staff members of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to Washington, D.C., to meet with the international financial institutions and the Organization of American States in 2020, and to undertake a mission to Haiti in the same year, and (b) meeting support services and other expenses in Haiti.

31. The total resource requirements for those consultative missions were estimated at \$44,900, for which provision had not been made in the proposed programme budget for 2020. It was, however, expected that those requirements would be met within the resources approved under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2020.

32. With respect to paragraph 14 of the draft resolution, in which the Secretary-General was requested to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources, the Council's attention was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution [45/248 B](#) and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution [72/261](#), in which the Assembly had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and had also reaffirmed the mandates of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

33. *Draft resolution [E/2019/L.23](#) was adopted.*

**(e) African countries emerging from conflict  
([E/2019/L.28](#))**

34. **Mr. Fernández de Soto Valderrama** (Colombia), Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, said that one of the Commission's priorities in 2019 was to strengthen its role as an intergovernmental advisory body and a bridge with other United Nations bodies, in order to facilitate a frank, constructive exchange of views that would enhance peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The Commission worked with many countries on the basis of cross-cutting themes to foster coordination in peacekeeping. It attached a high priority to Africa and had convened country-specific and regional discussions in 2019 at the request of the countries concerned. Those discussions had emphasized the diverse challenges of building peace in Africa.

35. In Liberia and Sierra Leone, the Commission had supported the involvement of United Nations system bodies and other partners in discussions of the inclusion,

in national development plans, of peacebuilding priorities and economic and social matters, in full compliance with the principles of national ownership and leadership. Coordination across the system and with multilateral and bilateral donors was essential to coherence in the field. In discussions on the two countries, the Commission had brought the United Nations together with regional and subregional organizations, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and such international financial institutions as the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund, in order to align the support provided by the United Nations with that provided by other international organizations.

36. In Burundi, the socioeconomic dialogue that the Commission had promoted with international development partners had strengthened coordination between the United Nations country team and the World Bank in relation to such national priorities as the socioeconomic reintegration of refugees and returnees and the fight against malnutrition. The Commission's long-standing commitment in Burundi showed the usefulness of sustained engagement.

37. The Commission's work in the Gambia had allowed the country's Government to make progress in its peacebuilding priorities. The progress of projects financed from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund was a lesson learned on the impact of coordination between the Commission and the Fund, which had strengthened the relationship with donors. Through periodic updates provided by the Government, the Commission had learned about the challenges facing such new institutions as the truth, reconciliation and reparations commission and the advances made in the empowerment of women and youth, the drafting of the new constitution, the reform of the security sector and socioeconomic reactivation.

38. In 2018, the Commission had provided advice to the Security Council on the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). It had helped meet the country's needs, particularly those related to the rule of law, in the implementation of the national peacebuilding and recovery plan. The visit of the Chair of the Commission's Central African Republic configuration to Bangui immediately after the signature of the February 2019 peace agreement had shown that coordination between the United Nations and the Government could increase citizens' confidence in the peace process. The Commission should continue to provide advice to the Security Council on request, not

only in preparation for the renewal of mandates but throughout the fulfilment of mandates.

39. In Guinea-Bissau, the support provided by the Commission had complemented that provided by ECOWAS for the national political dialogue intended to restore constitutional order and ensure that credible, peaceful elections were held in accordance with the Conakry Agreement on the Implementation of the ECOWAS Road Map for the Resolution of the Political Crisis in Guinea-Bissau. The Commission had helped mobilize Member States and international organizations to make the elections a success and pave the way for long-term stability and sustainable development. The Commission's engagement had shown that inclusive national dialogues were essential to overcoming political differences and encouraging the international community to provide sustained support for peace and development efforts.

40. In the Sahel, the Commission had helped the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) mobilize the United Nations system, the Sahel countries and other international and regional partners to implement the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. The Commission had helped harmonize strategies that would allow the Sahel region to overcome the challenges it faced. Important lessons learned had been shared at the joint meeting of the Council and the Commission on linkages between climate change and challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel, held in November 2018.

41. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace required a system-wide approach that respected the mandates of United Nations bodies and supported efforts led by Member States. To coordinate support for national-owned initiatives, the Chair of the Commission's Central African Republic configuration had convened the Commission's first high-level event in the margins of the Council's humanitarian affairs segment in Geneva in June 2019. The event had emphasized the need for sustained international support to resolve the conflict, humanitarian situation and serious development problems in the country.

42. The Commission had a unique role in addressing the challenges facing Africa by promoting an interactive dialogue with local authorities on overcoming inequality and avoiding new conflicts. The Commission was committed to working with the Council to address the economic and social challenges of peacebuilding and sustaining peace and improve coherence in the United Nations system.

43. **Mr. Kamaluddeen** (Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in South

Sudan), speaking via video link, said that the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan in December 2018 had been greeted with renewed optimism and followed by a reduction in conflict. The cordial, consensual agreement to extend the pre-transitional period to 12 November 2019 was another markedly positive development. Hopes for a smooth transition and greater stability were high.

44. Despite the enthusiastic popular response to the agreement, sporadic fighting persisted in the Equatorias, and the humanitarian situation remained dire. While the humanitarian response plan for 2019 targeted some 5.7 million people, there were as many as 7.2 million people in need, 1.9 million displaced persons and another 6.9 million facing severe food insecurity. Humanitarian convoys were better able to reach people in need, but hindrances to access remained.

45. In May 2019, the Government of South Sudan had established a humanitarian coordination unit comprising government and opposition actors. The unit would address issues mentioned in chapter 3 of the Revitalized Agreement and enable the parties to jointly facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of South Sudan. In addition, the recently endorsed national framework on return, reintegration and relocation for displaced persons would provide critical policy guidance for all parties to prepare the ground for the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their homes, a process that had already begun to unfold in a positive manner.

46. The signature of the Revitalized Agreement had had an immediate impact, with inflation plummeting to 7 per cent in Juba and declining less dramatically elsewhere. After fluctuating for some time, the exchange rate had stabilized at around 276 South Sudanese pounds to the dollar for 2019.

47. As peace was established and international oil prices rose, revenues from oil and other resources must be managed effectively, transparently and with integrity. Accordingly, there had been renewed interest in supporting good governance and economic management.

48. While humanitarian activity remained the primary requirement in South Sudan, development priorities must continue to be considered. The decrease in conflict had allowed the Government to begin shifting its expenditure priorities, with 54 per cent of the budget for 2019 being allocated to infrastructure. However, many of the Government's budgets, particularly for such social services as health and education, were in deficit.

49. As South Sudan shared borders with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and six other countries, the potential spread of the Ebola virus was a pressing concern. The Government had provided adequate contingency plans and led preparedness activities across the country, with United Nations support. Over 30 screening sites had been established at border-crossing points, and more than 2.5 million people had been screened.

50. Considerable progress notwithstanding, challenges related to weak governance and economic management persisted, undermining effective service delivery and development. Arrears in payment of salaries were a major concern. Multidimensional poverty in South Sudan had recently been estimated at 92 per cent. The country team would continue to monitor the situation and provide whatever support it could, with the assistance of partners supporting South Sudan.

51. Violence against women and girls was another persistent challenge. The affirmative action quota established in the Revitalized Agreement had yet to be implemented, particularly in the institutions mandated to facilitate the transition. Support continued to be provided for women's participation and economic and political empowerment, in addition to legal and administrative policies to that effect.

52. Development partners were beginning to pay more attention to development work. The United Nations system had recently extended support in the areas of governance, economic management, financial management, health, education, water and sanitation, rural infrastructure, reconciliation, stabilization and resilience. Aimed at strengthening integrated support for socioeconomic development, the Partnership for Recovery and Resilience brought together United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and, increasingly, private sector partners.

53. Support for the Sustainable Development Goals in South Sudan was increasing and becoming more integrated, with a projected \$272 million to be delivered in 2019 under the United Nations Cooperation Framework for South Sudan. Moreover, the United Nations was increasingly assisting with such priorities as tackling gender-based violence, providing support for returnees, access to justice, area-based economic recovery, food and nutrition security, education and provision of health services. The challenges, while enormous, would be met with strong resolve on the ground. It was important for peace to be maintained, as its absence would render the overarching task much more difficult, if not impossible. Lastly, all were in agreement that the current juncture presented the best

chance for South Sudan and that commitments under the Revitalized Agreement must therefore be upheld.

*Draft resolution E/2018/L.28: African countries emerging from conflict*

54. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

*Draft resolution E/2018/L.28 was adopted.*

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

##### **(h) International cooperation in tax matters (continued)**

*Action on the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its eighteenth session (E/2019/45/Add.1)*

55. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision contained in chapter IV of the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its eighteenth session (E/2019/45/Add.1).

*Draft decision: Venue and dates of and provisional agenda for the nineteenth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters*

56. *The draft decision was adopted.*

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

##### **(g) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/2019/74; E/2019/L.24)**

57. **Ms. Carlsson** (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)), introducing the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) (E/2019/74), said that the world had reached a decisive moment in the response to HIV. Since the issuance of the report, UNAIDS had published the 2018 data on the AIDS epidemic. Those data indicated that, globally, of 38 million people living with HIV, 23 million, a record number, had been undergoing treatment; for the first time, key populations and their sexual partners had accounted for more than half of new HIV infections; the number of new infections among young women had decreased by 25 per cent since 2010, but every week more than 6,000 adolescent girls and young women had been infected with HIV; and the annual resources available to respond to AIDS had decreased by nearly \$1 billion, increasing the annual shortfall in resources to

\$7 billion. Those data confirmed the key message of the report, namely that progress was not fast enough to meet the global AIDS targets for 2020. Although some countries and regions had made good progress, significant disparities existed.

58. UNAIDS was in a period of transition. The Secretary-General would soon appoint a new Executive Director, who would set the direction for the Joint Programme and the next phase of the AIDS response. The Search Committee established by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board had followed a thorough, inclusive process for the nomination of the Executive Director, and the short list of candidates was strong.

59. The Joint Programme was crucial to the AIDS response. It brought together the comparative advantages of several United Nations organizations to address the epidemic and was more relevant than ever in view of the need to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. UNAIDS was the only co-sponsored joint programme in the United Nations system, and, as recognized in the draft resolution, its multisectoral approach helped countries convert global commitments into results for people, including those left behind. Engagement with people living with HIV and those most affected by the epidemic, including young women and girls, men who had sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, people who injected drugs and prisoners, was therefore at the heart of the Joint Programme's work, which included advancing human rights, ending HIV-related stigma and discrimination and gender-based violence, and addressing other structural drivers of inequalities. Through the refined operating model of UNAIDS, priority-setting, joint programming and resource allocation were carried out at the country level, using funds provided in the form of country envelopes. Through its increased focus on country needs, UNAIDS upheld the principles on which the reform of the United Nations development system was based.

60. The lessons learned from the implementation of the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework for the period 2018 to 2019, through which results had been jointly reported on the basis of input from joint teams in countries, would help harmonize resource management across United Nations organizations. However, as a result of funding challenges, UNAIDS was working with significantly fewer staff, in particular in co-sponsoring organizations.

61. The AIDS epidemic was not over and the unmet needs for both prevention and treatment were substantial. Progress across regions and countries, and within countries, was uneven. All partners should

strengthen their commitment to the response to HIV by fully financing the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which would require at least \$14 billion when it was replenished in October 2019. Bilateral and domestic investment in the response must also be increased, and the Joint Programme must be fully funded. Political leadership was key, and a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV must be convened to regain momentum and end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

62. **Mr. Xu** Zhongsheng (China) said that despite remarkable progress in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, the situation remained serious. Worldwide, 38 million people lived with HIV and 5,000 people, half of whom were members of key populations and their partners, were infected every day. The major shortfalls in funding for the response must be remedied; a strong UNAIDS would be able to lead the global prevention and control work. As Chair of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board for 2019, China, together with the United States of America, the Vice-Chair of the Board, invited the Council to consider and adopt draft resolution [E/2019/L.24](#) on the Joint Programme. By decision of the Council, the Executive Director of UNAIDS submitted a report to the Council every two years, and the Council adopted a draft resolution based on that report. Since the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva maintained routine contact with UNAIDS, the Permanent Missions of China and the United States in Geneva had, following previous practice, coordinated consultations among the Member States on the draft resolution. Consensus had been reached in a spirit of cooperation and flexibility. UNAIDS was at a critical juncture, and Member States should remain united and look to the future. His delegation would support the Executive Director ad interim and looked forward to the appointment by the Secretary-General of a new Executive Director in the near future.

63. **Mr. Smith** (United States of America) said that 2019 marked the midpoint of the implementation of the UNAIDS 2016–2021 Strategy: On the Fast Track to End AIDS. In addition, the targets and commitments adopted in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030 ([A/RES/70/266](#), annex) must be achieved by 2020. Draft resolution [E/2019/L.24](#) would affirm the work of UNAIDS towards the full implementation of the Strategy and support the Joint Programme's leadership of the multisectoral response to HIV. While progress had been made in identifying people living with HIV and increasing access to antiretroviral treatment, disparities



remained among and within countries and regions, between men and women, among age groups and in relation to key populations. To end the AIDS epidemic, universal health coverage must be achieved, HIV-related services must be integrated in health systems, stigma and discrimination must be addressed and civil society must be engaged. More evidence-based HIV prevention, better access to viral load testing and stronger integration of tuberculosis and HIV services were needed. The Joint Programme's co-sponsor and governance model was an example of strategic coherence, country-level impact and inclusive governance.

64. The global AIDS response and UNAIDS must be fully funded, and a date for convening a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS must be set no later than at the Assembly's seventy-fifth session. The Council requested the Programme Coordinating Board to discuss the governance and financing of UNAIDS and report on them to the Council by 2021; Members States would need to ensure that such reporting was diligent and constructive to maintain a strong UNAIDS. Despite the progress made in controlling the epidemic, the coming years would be crucial to the Joint Programme, which must be effective and accountable if the agreed targets were to be met. UNAIDS was essential to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3, on healthy lives and well-being. His Government supported UNAIDS and people affected by HIV/AIDS. The Programme Coordinating Board must ensure that the new Executive Director of UNAIDS was empowered to develop the global vision and the strategy for the response to the epidemic after 2020.

65. **Ms. Davezac** (France) said that, despite the progress achieved by UNAIDS, much remained to be done to improve the prevention and treatment of HIV. The reduction in the number of people newly infected had slowed, and 15 million people living with HIV had no access to treatment. Progress in some regions was insufficient. Little time remained to accelerate the response by 2020, and more effort was needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals related to HIV. Key populations must be reached in their communities to prevent disparities. A human-rights-based approach, involving the integration of HIV prevention, testing and treatment in sexual and reproductive rights and health services, would help achieve the Goals and strengthen communities. Her delegation was committed to combating HIV alongside UNAIDS, which must be efficient, effective and accountable. The Joint Programme mobilized politicians and donors, strengthened the capacity of national agencies to combat HIV, fostered partnerships,

monitored progress in fighting the epidemic and helped those living with the virus, civil society organizations and local populations to participate in that fight.

66. **Mr. Black** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that more effort was needed to meet the 2020 targets and end the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Key populations, including adolescent girls and young women, bore a disproportionate share of the burden of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The strengthening of treatment and prevention must be accompanied by a commitment to human rights, the empowerment of women and girls, gender equality and the active engagement of people living with HIV. The needs of adolescent girls and key populations in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights must be met in order to end discrimination and reduce the number of newly infected people and AIDS-related deaths to zero. While his delegation welcomed the Joint Programme's refinement of its operating model in line with broader reforms of the United Nations, the Joint Programme must be fit for purpose and responsive to the evolving epidemiological context of individual countries. Future discussions of the governance of UNAIDS should be based on the need for an efficient, effective, accountable and sustainably funded Joint Programme that would achieve the targets set for 2020 and 2030. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the management and administration of UNAIDS would contain helpful input to such discussions.

67. **Mr. Ismail** (United Kingdom) said that the world needed a UNAIDS that could successfully lead the response to HIV. The challenges to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 included the high numbers of newly infected young women, the fact that half of newly infected people were members of key populations and their partners, and inequalities and other social factors. UNAIDS was essential to the improvement of prevention through the Global HIV Prevention Coalition and to the promotion of human rights, particularly sexual and reproductive health rights and the rights of marginalized groups. An effective, efficient and accountable Joint Programme was essential to the achievement of the 2020 targets and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

68. UNAIDS had been through a difficult period but could now rebuild confidence and its partners' trust. The Management Action Plan recently approved by the Programme Coordinating Board would, if fully implemented, ensure that harassment, bullying and abuse of power were addressed. Strong leadership would be required, and the new Executive Director would be essential to progress.

69. The governance of UNAIDS gave Member States, civil society and United Nations organizations a unique opportunity to discuss the AIDS response. At the June 2019 session of the Programme Coordinating Board, the importance of the involvement of civil society and people living with HIV, and of understanding the barriers to reaching marginalized and vulnerable groups, had been emphasized. New and existing donors must fully fund the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, and more sustainable domestic financing of the response must be provided. A strong UNAIDS was needed to lead the response and end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

70. **Mr. Trearriet** (Netherlands) said that, although a growing number of people living with HIV knew their status and almost 80 per cent of those living with HIV received treatment, only half had achieved viral suppression. The number of newly infected people was not declining fast enough and, since 54 per cent of such people were members of key populations and 18 per cent were young women, the most vulnerable and marginalized were being left behind. Despite the wealth of evidence that criminalizing people for who they were exacerbated stigma and hindered their efforts to seek treatment, 67 countries criminalized same-sex relationships, 98 criminalized sex work and 150 had laws that perpetuated the unequal treatment of women and men. While such laws could not be changed overnight, non-governmental organizations should be allowed to reach out to those in need, in the interests of public health. His delegation supported the draft resolution and called on political leaders to work with United Nations agencies, civil society and local communities through an evidence-based approach in order to protect human rights and remove stigma and other barriers to ending the AIDS epidemic. The response must be sustainable, and HIV prevention, care, treatment and support must be integrated in health systems and other sectors through comprehensive sexuality education, tuberculosis control, sexual and reproductive health-care services, legal and psychosocial support for victims of gender-based violence and harm reduction for people who used drugs. His delegation looked forward to the appointment of a new Executive Director to ensure that UNAIDS could help end the epidemic.

71. **Mr. Konstantinopolskiy** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation welcomed the provision in the report of updated information on progress in combating HIV/AIDS, including on the implementation of the 90-90-90 agenda. His Government was committed to achieving the targets contained in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS. In 2018, the total number

of people in the Russian Federation who had undergone free HIV testing had exceeded 38 million, a quarter of the population. Each year, 2 million people were tested for HIV; the number of newly infected people had not increased in the previous three years. His Government was increasing its contribution to internal cooperation in the area, including in cooperation with UNAIDS. For many years, it had jointly held an international conference on combating HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and, in 2018, it had made a voluntary contribution of \$17,800,000 to UNAIDS to help countries in those regions. His delegation was interested in broad sharing of experience of combating HIV/AIDS, taking into account national priorities. In that connection, the authors of the report had focused on certain controversial questions, in particular harm reduction, comprehensive sexuality education, and criticism of domestic legislation preventing prostitution and illegal drug use and possession, on which the Member States did not agree. His delegation requested the UNAIDS secretariat to take into account Member States' differing views on such matters.

*Draft resolution E/2019/L.24: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS*

72. *Draft resolution E/2019/L.24 was adopted.*

#### **Agenda item 15: Regional cooperation (continued)**

*Action on the recommendations contained in the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2019/15/Add.2)*

73. **The President** drew attention to the draft resolutions contained in chapter I of the report.

*Draft resolution I: Revised terms of reference of the Committee on Environmental Policy*

*Draft resolution II: Revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards*

*Draft resolution IV: Change of name and revised terms of reference of the Working Group on Ageing*

*Draft resolution VI: Revised terms of reference of the Inland Transport Committee*

74. **The President** said that she understood that the Council wished to defer consideration of draft resolutions I, II, IV and VI to the Council's 2020 session.

75. *It was so decided.*

*Draft resolution III: Change of name of the Committee on Housing and Land Management*

76. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

*Draft resolution V: Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings*

77. **The President** said that, as indicated in her message of 22 July 2019, following consultation within the Bureau and with the delegations concerned, and with a view to taking action on the draft resolution by consensus, she suggested that the Council take note of Economic Commission for Europe decision H (68) of 10 April 2019, on the Framework Guidelines for Energy Efficiency Standards in Buildings.

78. *It was so decided.*

*Draft resolution VII: Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes at the global level*

79. **The President** said that, as indicated in her message of 22 July 2019, following consultation within the Bureau and with the delegations concerned, and with a view to taking action on the draft resolution by consensus, she proposed that the Council take note of Economic Commission for Europe decision K (68) of 10 April 2019, on the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes at the global level.

80. *It was so decided.*

81. **Mr. Naumkin** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, but found the reference, in the first preambular paragraph, to the Council's "taking note" of Economic Commission for Europe decision K (68) of 10 April 2019 insufficient to result in greater efforts by the secretariat of the Convention to extend implementation of the Convention beyond the area of the Commission, in accordance with the tasks established for the secretariat. The Convention had always been an effective international instrument and, since 2016, had been the de facto legal framework for cooperation related to transboundary water resources. In 2018, Chad and Senegal had acceded to the Convention, and approximately 20 other Member States were currently interested in doing so. In that connection, the financing and staffing of the secretariat of the Convention should be increased so that staff could respond appropriately and effectively to requests from the Parties to the Convention for assistance to prepare for accession and, subsequently, honour their

obligations. His delegation hoped that discussion of the matter would continue.

82. **Ms. Crabtree** (Turkey) said that, although her delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, Turkey was not a Party to the Convention, which did not represent the views of all States members of the Economic Commission for Europe. It was inappropriate for a regional body such as the Commission to submit to the Council, which represented the entire membership of the United Nations, a draft resolution endorsing the Commission's unilateral adoption of the Convention. The Council could not be allowed, particularly without consulting its entire membership, to rubber-stamp the global implementation of instruments adopted without unanimous support at the regional level. Accordingly, the Council should not have taken formal action on the Commission's decision. The fact that the Council had agreed, in the draft resolution, to take note of the decision could not be construed as a change in the legal position of Turkey on the Convention.

83. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that, while his delegation commended the Commission on its regional implementation of the Convention, it was concerned that the global implementation of the Convention would overextend the Commission's limited resources and hamper its fulfilment of its primarily regional mandate. The Council and the Commission should build on the Convention's success within the existing mandates and budgets of the United Nations system, which was being reformed to improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

**Conclusion of the 2019 session of the Council**

84. **The President** declared that the Council had concluded its July management segment and its 2019 session.

*The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.*