



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 August 2019

Original: English

2019 session

26 July 2018–24 July 2019

July management segment

Summary record of the 36th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 23 July 2019, at 10 a.m.

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

Contents

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

- (c) Crime prevention and criminal justice
- (d) Narcotic drugs

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

- (b) Science and technology for development
- (d) Human settlements (*continued*)
- (f) Population and development
- (g) Public administration and development
- (i) Geospatial information
- (k) United Nations Forum on Forests

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

- (g) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent as soon as possible to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org).

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

19-12597 (E)



Please recycle



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 19: Social and human rights questions (continued)

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice
(E/2018/30/Add.1 and E/2019/30)

1. **Ms. Kupchyna** (Belarus), Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, speaking via video link, introduced the report of the Commission on its reconvened twenty-seventh session (E/2018/30/Add.1) and the report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth session (E/2019/30). She said that, in a world where the movement of people, goods and resources among countries was common and information flow was borderless, crime had also become a cross-border phenomenon. The Commission was therefore giving increasing attention to joint action by Member States, including through the strengthening of international cooperation and technical assistance, with a view to tackling cross-border challenges such as terrorism and transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and wildlife crime.

2. As the leading United Nations policymaking body in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, the Commission provided guidance through policy deliberations and the adoption of resolutions and decisions. Its twenty-eighth session had seen a record number of participants, demonstrating the relevance of the topics addressed and the importance accorded to them by Member States. The record number of side events, in areas such as corruption and organized crime, human trafficking, violent extremism, justice for all, combating wildlife crime and the role of sport in youth crime prevention strategies, had provided an opportunity to share information and good practices.

3. The theme of the session, “The responsibility of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems in preventing and countering crime motivated by intolerance or discrimination of any kind”, had also been the topic of a workshop organized by the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network. During the session, the Commission had adopted resolutions that covered crime prevention, the smuggling of commercial goods and wildlife trafficking. It had also highlighted the importance of engaging all members of society in crime prevention, taking into account the needs of the most

vulnerable. Holistic strategies were necessary, as crime impacted security and the political, social and economic stability and development of States and societies as a whole. Member States were encouraged to integrate crime prevention considerations into their national plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as into all relevant strategies, policies and programmes.

4. The Commission had recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval, for adoption by the General Assembly, of draft resolutions in the areas of emerging forms of crime, including cybercrime and online child sexual abuse; technical assistance in relation to counterterrorism; crime prevention through education for justice and sport; and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It had recommended, for adoption by the Council, two draft resolutions related to trafficking in precious metals and illegal mining and enhancing transparency in the judicial process. The draft resolutions on education for justice and the rule of law in the context of sustainable development and the integration of sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies would be an important contribution to the deliberations related to the Fourteenth Congress.

5. Several speakers at the session had emphasized the key role of the Commission with regard to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the mutually reinforcing, interrelated nature of sustainable development and the rule of law. The Commission had provided substantive inputs to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. In relation to General Assembly resolution 73/183, Member States had been invited to provide their views on how the Commission could further contribute to the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16. Those views had been considered during the session and brought to the attention of the high-level political forum in July 2019.

6. The Commission was responsible for preparations for the quinquennial United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Consultations and a Youth Forum would take place prior to the Fourteenth Congress, due to be held the following year. At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission had considered the status of preparations for the Congress and had recommended to the Council the approval of a draft resolution on the matter, for adoption by the General Assembly. Regional preparatory meetings had also been held to examine substantive items on the agenda and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a

basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Congress.

7. **Ms. Buner** (Turkey) said that transparency was a fundamental element of upholding human rights and the rule of law. Accordingly, at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, Turkey had sponsored the draft resolution on enhancing transparency in the judicial process, which had been recommended to the Council for adoption at the current meeting. The draft resolution reflected a common understanding and universal values, its main objective being to promote the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It also aimed to promote awareness of the significance of transparency in the judicial process in light of recent efforts by the international community. The adoption of the draft resolution would advance the formulation of programmes to improve such transparency.

8. The Istanbul Declaration on Transparency in the Judicial Process established contemporary standards that were relevant to the administration of justice and supported the implementation of previous agreements on strengthening judicial integrity, including the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct. That Declaration should be taken into account alongside good practices and other existing documents when formulating programmes and legislative reforms in the administration of justice. She asked relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to support initiatives relating to judicial transparency.

9. **Ms. Velichko** (Belarus) said that the cross-border nature of crime and its new forms, such as cybercrime, meant that timely policy development was necessary. The Commission played an important role in that regard. Belarus was Chair of the Commission in 2019, and her delegation welcomed the Commission's substantive work towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The participation of the Chair in the integration segment of the Council had demonstrated the importance of cooperation and the need to coordinate the work of all the commissions in Vienna, Geneva and New York in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. In 2019, the Commission had carried out high-quality work in preparation for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. She welcomed the reference in the report to the results of the European Regional Preparatory Meeting. Belarus had sponsored Commission resolution 28/1, on strengthening the participation of all members of society in crime prevention, in which Member States were invited to foster partnerships with the private sector and

engagement with civil society in crime prevention, as well as in programmes to assist victims of crime and reduce recidivism. In September 2019, Belarus would hold an international conference on combating terrorism through innovative approaches and the use of new and emerging technologies, with a view to developing interregional cooperation in that area. Her delegation supported the Commission's draft decisions and resolutions and encouraged others to support the report.

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twenty-seventh session

11. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twenty-seventh session", contained in chapter 1, section A of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened twenty-seventh session ([E/2018/30/Add.1](#)).

12. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-eighth session ([E/2019/30](#))

13. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies

Draft resolution II: Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Draft resolution III: Education for Justice and the rule of law in the context of sustainable development

Draft resolution IV: Promoting technical assistance and capacity-building to strengthen national measures and international cooperation to combat cybercrime, including information-sharing

Draft resolution V: Countering child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online

Draft resolution VI: Technical assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime related to counter-terrorism

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

15. **Ms. Suzuki** (Japan) said that the Congress was the most significant United Nations meeting in the field of crime prevention, bringing together numerous experts, policymakers and high-level Member State representatives to discuss policies and practices in the area. At the Fourteenth Congress, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would be discussed in relation to the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice. Those discussions would be most relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly the achievement of Goal 16.

16. In the draft resolution on follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the General Assembly would invite Member States to send representatives to the Fourteenth Congress at the highest appropriate level to discuss the policies and practices of crime prevention and criminal justice. The Assembly would also request the Commission to prepare a draft declaration, to be known as the Kyoto declaration, with a political message addressing the main topics to be discussed at the Congress, and would encourage Member States to finalize their negotiation of that declaration in a timely manner prior to the Congress. Discussions on the draft declaration would start in the second half of 2019 in Vienna. In preparation, Japan would hold a meeting of experts nominated by Governments of States from each regional group. The experts would review the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings and discuss how to achieve a concise declaration. Briefings on the outcome of the meeting would be given in Vienna in September 2019 and in New York in October of that year. She called for the active involvement of Member States in the process, to create greater cohesion between the Congress and related United Nations forums.

Section B

Draft resolution I: Enhancing transparency in the judicial process

Draft resolution II: Combating transnational organized crime and its links to illicit trafficking in precious metals and illegal mining, including by enhancing the security of supply chains of precious metals

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

Section C

Draft decision I: Appointment of two members and re-appointment of two members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Draft decision II: Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-eighth session and provisional agenda for its twenty-ninth session

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

(d) Narcotic drugs (E/2018/28/Add.1 and E/2019/28; E/INCB/2018/1)

19. **Ms. Plejić Marković** (Croatia), Vice-Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its sixty-second session, speaking via video link, introduced the report of the Commission on its reconvened sixty-first session (E/2018/28/Add.1) and the report of the Commission on its sixty-second session (E/2019/28).

20. She said that the sixty-second session had been attended by a record number of participants representing 140 Member States, as well as international organizations and non-governmental organizations. At the margins of the session, 100 side events had been organized, covering all aspects of the world drug problem. The Commission had adopted eight resolutions and 14 decisions, which related to changes in the scope of control of substances under international drug control conventions. It had added four synthetic opioids to Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, five substances to Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and three precursors to amphetamine to Table I of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. It had also decided not to include hydriodic acid in the tables of the latter Convention.

21. The Commission had unanimously adopted the procedural decision to postpone voting on the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the critical review of cannabis and cannabis-related substances, in order to provide States with more time to consider those recommendations. Intersessional meetings had been organized to give States parties the opportunity to interact with WHO on the recommendations, with another such meeting scheduled for September 2019.

22. The resolutions adopted by the Commission covered a broad range of issues. They included: strengthening international cooperation for the control of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic

drugs and psychotropic substances; fostering regional and international cooperation with a view to improving field identification capacity related to synthetic drugs for non-medical use; the need for development-oriented drug control programmes and the viable economic alternatives to the illicit cultivation of drug crops; and the need to continue addressing the challenges posed by the non-medical use of synthetic opioids. Others stressed the importance of enhancing the capacity of competent national authorities to estimate and assess the need for internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes; urged Member States to adopt measures to promote well-being and achieve gender equality by ending the AIDS epidemic and eliminating hepatitis B and C; highlighted the need to make services for the prevention and treatment of hepatitis C more accessible, particularly when the disease was attributable to drug use; and focused on strengthening the dialogue between the Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board.

23. During the ministerial segment of the session, ministers and government representatives had adopted the 2019 Ministerial Declaration on Strengthening Our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem. Its preamble outlined shared principles and the role of the Commission, international bodies and all relevant stakeholders in addressing the world drug problem. The second section, on stocktaking, set out the identified challenges in that regard. In the third section, on the way forward, Member States committed to implementing balanced, comprehensive and scientific evidence-based responses to the world drug problem; accelerating the implementation of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and the outcome document of the 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem; strengthening cooperation and coordination at all levels; mobilizing resources; and ensuring a single-track approach to addressing and countering the world drug problem. Progress in honouring those commitments would be reviewed in 2029, with a mid-term review in 2024. The implementation of existing international drug policy commitments would be accelerated through the organization of thematic discussions at the intersessional meetings of the Commission in order to foster dialogue and exchange good practices. Interactive meetings to address the challenges set out in the

stocktaking section of the Ministerial Declaration would be held annually.

24. The Commission discussed its contribution to the review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda at its regular sessions. At its sixty-second session, as at previous sessions, it had also submitted a substantive contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The Commission continued to enhance horizontal cooperation with other functional commissions of the Council.

25. **Mr. de Joncheere** (President of the International Narcotics Control Board), introducing the report of the Board for 2018 (E/INCB/2018/1), said that the world drug problem was increasing in its complexity, with great levels of human suffering and loss of life. An estimated half a million people died every year because of drug abuse and overdoses. The 2018 report of the Board provided an analysis of the current situation and made recommendations towards improving the implementation of drug control treaties and the functioning of the international drug control system. Such efforts contributed towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 3.

26. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1954 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 were intended to ensure the availability of substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion and abuse. The prevalence of many conditions requiring pain management was increasing in low- and middle-income countries. However, access to and the availability of controlled substances for medical use remained an enormous challenge, as many people were left without adequate treatment or had to undergo surgical procedures without adequate anaesthesia, even though the medicines required were inexpensive and there were known ways to remedy the situation.

27. In countries with high levels of consumption of opioids, the aggressive marketing of synthetic opioids and their overprescription without medical supervision had led to high levels of dependence and an increase in fatalities resulting from overdoses. Regulatory control and proper medical supervision were key to overcoming the problem and saving lives. It was important to ensure that the problem did not spread to other countries or hamper efforts to increase access to opioids where it was truly needed.

28. The Board had been closely monitoring the global disparity in the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes, providing relevant guidance and recommendations to Governments and reviewing global progress on their implementation. Its analysis had

shown some promising developments, including that impediments to availability arising from cultural issues and biases were progressively diminishing. However, other impediments such as a lack of training or awareness, sourcing and supply issues and limited financial resources in health systems were increasingly reported.

29. The increase in the use of expensive synthetic opioids, mainly in high-income countries, was not matched by an increase in the use of affordable morphine in low- and middle-income countries. Furthermore, the availability of some essential psychotropic substances had declined or remained stable in most countries from which data had been gathered, despite an increasing number of people living with anxiety disorders and epilepsy. A global disparity was also clear in that area: higher consumption of such substances was reported in higher-income countries, yet most people with epilepsy lived in low- and middle-income countries, with limited access to the necessary medicines. The report of the Board on progress in ensuring adequate access to internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes ([E/INCB/2018/1/Supp.1](#)) set out ways in which Governments could take concrete action to ensure such access, thereby alleviating suffering and contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3. The Board also helped national authorities to improve the availability of controlled substances for medical purposes. In order to mitigate shortages in controlled medicines in emergencies, Governments were encouraged to utilize simplified procedures to facilitate the export of such medicines. Member States were urged to commit to taking concrete action to address issues of availability.

30. The 2018 report of the Board ([E/INCB/2018/1](#)) also examined the risks and benefits of cannabis and cannabinoids for medical, scientific and so-called recreational uses. It advocated proper regulation and control of the production and supply of cannabis for medical use, as well as medical supervision of the use of medicinal cannabinoids and preservation of the integrity of the pharmaceutical regulatory systems. Such measures aimed to prevent diversion to illicit channels and abuse. Following the recommendations of WHO on the scope of control of cannabis and cannabis-related substances, the Board stood ready to assist Member States in the implementation of their related treaty obligations, regardless of the outcome of deliberations by the Commission on the matter. Legislative developments on the so-called recreational use of cannabis were highly concerning and ran counter to treaties and commitments by States to limit the use of

narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes.

31. Another issue of concern was the situation in Afghanistan. The Board had recently, in accordance with article 14 bis of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, called for urgent assistance from the United Nations to help address the challenges of drug control in Afghanistan. Stabilizing that country would be impossible unless the illicit opiate economy was addressed. Actively increasing the support of the international community through the United Nations was strongly encouraged.

32. For many years, the Board had taken a health and human rights approach in addressing the world drug problem. It therefore reiterated its condemnation of extrajudicial responses to suspected drug-related offences, which continued in several countries. All Governments should address drug-related crimes through formal criminal justice responses. All States that retained the death penalty for such crimes were encouraged to commute sentences that had already been handed down and to consider abolishing the death sentence for drug-related offences.

33. The Board recommended that States develop effective strategies for the prevention of drug use and mechanisms to address dependence through evidence-based treatment, rehabilitation, aftercare and social reintegration. The Board's report on precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances ([E/INCB/2018/4](#)) reflected the results achieved in international precursor control, but also outlined significant remaining challenges, in particular the availability of "designer" precursors. Means of addressing the proliferation of such chemicals and new psychoactive substances should be explored to prevent them from reaching people.

34. The Board was grateful to Governments, for meeting reporting obligations and engaging in and supporting its activities. One example was the web-based International Import and Export Authorization System, a secure platform for the online exchange of import and export authorizations of internationally controlled substances. Its widespread use by Governments would allow the international system of control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to become more secure, accurate and efficient. Nonetheless, the continued operation of that platform and other initiatives often depended on extrabudgetary support to the Board.

35. Lastly, full compliance with the conventions on drug control and the implementation of the Board's

recommendations and the resolutions and declarations of the Commission, the Council and the General Assembly were key to achieving the health and welfare objectives of the conventions.

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-first session

36. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-first session”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened sixty-first session (E/2018/28/Add.1).

37. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-second session (E/2019/28)

38. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-second session and provisional agenda for its sixty-third session

Draft decision II: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

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

40. **Mr. Bastaki** (United Arab Emirates) said that his delegation had reservations on paragraph 735 of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board, which fell outside the purview of the Board. The United Arab Emirates, along with a number of other representatives, had expressed its reservations at the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, but no amendments had been made to the final report to reflect those concerns. He therefore called upon the Board to consult with the countries concerned to ensure precision in the information contained in its report.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (continued)

(b) Science and technology for development (A/74/62–E/2019/6; E/2019/31)

41. **Mr. Tjoa** (Austria), Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, speaking via video link, introduced the report of the Commission on Science and Technology on its twenty-second session (E/2019/31). He said that the Commission had discussed the role of science, technology and innovation in

empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. It had also reviewed the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels. Two priority areas had been considered: the impact of rapid technological change on sustainable development and the role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science. The Commission has also discussed the application of a gender lens to science, technology and innovation, and policy reviews in that area.

42. The discussions had underscored the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and achieving sustainable development. They had also highlighted the seminal role played by information and communications technology (ICT) in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation as enablers of development. In that regard, the role of the Commission as the main United Nations body responsible for science, technology and innovation, particularly within the context of the 2030 Agenda, was reaffirmed.

43. Rapid technological change accelerated the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by providing new solutions to economic, social and environmental obstacles; supporting more inclusive forms of participation in social and economic life; presenting more environmentally sustainable modes of production; and giving policymakers powerful tools to design and plan development interventions. Technology foresight and assessment exercises would help policymakers and stakeholders to implement the Agenda through the identification of challenges and opportunities that could be addressed in a strategic manner. Building digital skills and competencies so that societies could adapt to and benefit from technological changes was also important.

44. Science, technology and innovation contributed to building resilient communities by connecting and empowering people; extending access to health and education; monitoring environmental and social risks; enabling early-warning systems; and driving economic diversification and economic development while also considering negative effects on the environment. Strengthening the voice, participation and leadership of women and girls as consumers and producers of science, technology and innovation was necessary in implementing the 2030 Agenda to ensure that no one was left behind. The promotion of local innovation capabilities was another area for consideration in order

to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic development, in cooperation with national programmes.

45. Although half of the world's population had access to the Internet, a great disparity remained, with ICT and its applications unavailable and unaffordable in numerous developing countries, especially for populations in rural areas. Rapid growth in broadband access networks underscored the urgent need to address the growing digital divide in the availability, affordability and quality of access between and within countries, with special emphasis on supporting least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa. The use of ICT should be prioritized through innovative, multi-stakeholder approaches that took into account national and regional development strategies.

46. The development gains of e-commerce should be maximized. The eTrade for All Initiative provided a new approach to trade development through electronic exchanges by allowing developing countries to more easily navigate the supply of technical assistance.

47. The Commission had adopted resolutions on science, technology and innovation for development and on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. It had also selected the priority themes for consideration at its twenty-third session: harnessing rapid technological change for inclusive and sustainable development; and exploring space technologies for sustainable development and the benefits of international research collaboration in that context.

48. **Ms. Carpentier** (Chief of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) New York Office), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels ([A/74/62-E/2019/6](#)), said that in 2018, for the first time, the number of people using the Internet had exceeded half the global population. However, regional divides remained, with a significant difference between access to the Internet in Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. The lack of connectivity for almost half of the global population was related to underlying structural inequalities in income, literacy and education, and much remained to be done to address gaps within and between countries and social groups. More comprehensive efforts were required to address the digital divide and achieve economic empowerment and gender equality.

49. The globalization of communications and the growth of online services were modifying employment

patterns, with rapid technological change accelerating the digitalization of a wide variety of occupations. The emergence of the platform economy, in which workers undertook short-term assignments that were managed online, provided new opportunities for employment for people in developing countries, but also raised concerns about changes in the relationship between employers and workers, including reduced access to social protection benefits and weaker bargaining power for workers.

50. Artificial intelligence, automation and robotics were expected to displace many routine jobs and enable new types of work to emerge. Automation might also have gender implications, as many women held jobs that were more likely to be automated and women were less likely to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, in which jobs were expected to be created. Countries would need to equip their labour force with the skills required to thrive in such a context. Beyond its impact on work, digitalization was also advancing in all other areas of production and commerce, with growth in global e-commerce sales, including in cross-border business-to-consumer sales.

51. In collaboration with the African Union and the European Union, UNCTAD had organized the first African e-commerce week, in which governmental officials, the private sector, civil society, youth and academia had participated. In addition, to mitigate the lack of policy-relevant statistics on the digital economy in developing countries, the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board had established the Working Group on Measuring E-commerce and the Digital Economy, which would hold its first meeting in the last quarter of 2019.

52. The so-called frontier technologies, which included machine learning, artificial intelligence and algorithmic decision-making, contributed strongly to efforts to deliver sustainable development, from e-commerce-driven entrepreneurship to e-health, e-government and humanitarian support. However, there were concerns about the growing decision-making power of devices and algorithms that used machine learning and large-scale data analysis in ways that could lack transparency and reduce the autonomy of individuals. Every country was affected by cybersecurity and privacy issues, but they did not all have the means to protect their citizens adequately. The low participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics could perpetuate gender bias as women were less involved in the development of applications. The increasing interaction between ICT innovations and other frontier technologies also needed

to be taken into account, both to address long-standing problems and to deal with potential unintended consequences, including in genetics, nanotechnology and advanced materials.

53. Important events had been held to identify ways to promote innovation in financing and cooperation among stakeholders, including the thirteenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Paris in November 2018. In addition, the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation had presented a report entitled "The Age of Digital Interdependence", in which it called for greater cooperation to ensure that the benefits of digital technology reached all of humanity while addressing associated challenges.

54. In the 15 years since the World Summit on the Information Society and the 5 years since the 10-year review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the Summit outcomes, the information society had changed profoundly, transforming lives and presenting new opportunities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. However, despite the progress made in the access, use and applications of ICT, more needed to be done to ensure that the benefits and development opportunities of digital innovations were available to all and that least developed countries were not left behind.

55. Rapid digital innovation was changing expectations about social, economic and cultural development, and emerging issues presented new and complex challenges that would require an improved understanding of ongoing and future developments related to the information society. It was necessary to consider how the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society should take into account rapid technological progress and the increasing complexity of that society.

56. All actors in the digital space needed to come together to share experiences, expertise and ideas about the new policy balances that should be found to address the emerging challenges of the information society and their implications for equality, security, inclusiveness, sustainability, innovation and prosperity. Cooperation and dialogue among stakeholders would be crucial, as would innovation and greater cooperation concerning governance, technology and services. Finally, more would need to be done to build the evidence base, anticipate future technological developments and consider appropriate policy approaches.

57. As the fifteenth anniversary of the World Summit on the Information Society approached, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a context of rapid technological change should guide efforts to make

progress towards a people-centred, development-oriented and inclusive information society.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-second session (E/2019/31)

58. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

Draft resolution II: Science, technology and innovation for development

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

Section B

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-third session of the Commission

60. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(d) Human settlements (continued) (A/74/8)

61. **Mr. Williams** (Director of the New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)), introducing the report of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of UN-Habitat on its first session (A/74/8), said that the Assembly had adopted resolutions on the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2023; the United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements; enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda; achieving gender equality through the work of UN-Habitat to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements; and enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements. The Assembly had also adopted a ministerial declaration, entitled "Innovation for better quality of life in cities and communities: accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals" and decisions on the rules of procedure of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, the rules of procedure of the Executive Board and the arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of UN-Habitat.

(f) Population and development (E/2019/25)

62. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica), Chair of the Commission on Population and Development, introducing the report on the fifty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development (E/2019/25), said that the theme of the session had been “Review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its contribution to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The Commission had adopted a declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994. Member States had reaffirmed the Programme of Action of the Conference; welcomed the progress made in implementing the Programme of Action while acknowledging the remaining challenges and obstacles; and emphasized linkages between the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda. The Commission had called for adequate mobilization of resources to support the implementation of the Programme of Action; encouraged the provision of technical assistance to developing countries; and emphasized the importance of high-quality, disaggregated data for measuring progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

63. In their statements during the general debate, delegations had reaffirmed their support for the Programme of Action, reflected on the progress made and the remaining challenges and emphasized that the full implementation of the Programme of Action was critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Delegations had also underscored the importance of integrating population into development planning, including by ensuring quality education, decent work and economic growth, reducing inequalities, addressing climate change and promoting peaceful societies, justice and strong institutions. They had stressed that gender equality and the empowerment of women were central to sustainable development and highlighted the need for universal access to quality education and health care, including for sexual and reproductive health. In addition, delegations had noted the importance of properly managing international migration as a means of contributing to sustainable development in countries of origin and destination, while helping migrants and their families to improve their standard of living.

64. The Commission had hosted a high-level panel to discuss the key findings and recommendations of the regional conferences on population and development that had been held in 2018, during which panellists had highlighted region-specific population trends and noted common challenges. Delegations had also interacted

with a panel of experts on core issues related to the International Conference on Population and Development.

65. The Commission recommended to the Council the adoption of two draft decisions: one taking note of the report and another approving the provisional agenda for the Commission’s fifty-third session. In addition, the Commission had adopted two decisions, one on the special theme for its fifty-fourth session in 2021 (“Population and sustainable development, in particular sustained and inclusive economic growth”) and another taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2018.

Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-second session and provisional agenda for its fifty-third session

66. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-second session and provisional agenda for its fifty-third session”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-second session (E/2019/25).

67. **Ms. Nemroff** (United States of America) said that her delegation had set out in detail its position on the report of the Commission in its statement on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, delivered on 17 July 2019 at the 99th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development.

68. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(g) Public administration and development (E/2019/44)

69. **Ms. Fraser-Moleketi** (Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration), introducing the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eighteenth session (E/2019/44), said that the theme of the session, held in New York in April 2019, had been “Building strong institutions for equal and inclusive societies”. To build such societies and leave no one behind, deep inequalities must be addressed in many countries; to that end, institutions at all levels must play a greater role in promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies.

70. In taking stock of progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16, the Committee had emphasized the critical role of institutions in achieving all the Goals. It had also identified prospects and recommended actions for advancing the implementation of the institutional aspects of Goal 16 at the national and subnational levels. It recognized that in-depth reviews of Goal 16 would be strengthened by the availability of more evidence of governance capacities and analysis of trends in many areas, taking into account important linkages between Goal 16 and the other Goals. Progress towards Goal 16 should be reviewed annually at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, since it helped planning and implementation related to the other Goals and the effectiveness of institutions.

71. The Committee had revisited the principles of effective governance for sustainable development with a view to their operationalization, which would entail further work on the elaboration of commonly used strategies and the collection of further evidence of what did and did not work. It would also call for the engagement of experts and all relevant stakeholders, as well as the linking of the principles with work on governance indicators, in order to strengthen the analytical basis for assessing the impact of reform policies. The Committee continued to engage with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions Development Initiative, the Praia Group on Governance Statistics and others in those efforts.

72. Peaceful, inclusive societies and effective, accountable institutions of justice were associated with the legal empowerment of the poor as well as non-linear and process-oriented approaches to security sector reform and peacebuilding. Those approaches were effective in solving the root causes of conflict, ensuring inclusive transitional justice and upholding the rule of law in the long term through the meaningful engagement of all sectors of society, particularly women and vulnerable groups.

73. Enhancing the capacity of the public sector in core functional areas of administration required new capacities and skills to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, while traditional public sector competencies remained relevant. Critical, complexity, futures and design thinking, in addition to deliberative skills, emotional intelligence and the appropriate use of frontier technologies, would help deliver innovative public services and achieve the Goals.

74. Strengthening fiscal management at the national and subnational levels was integral to achieving the Goals; sound fiscal management entailed full ownership

of domestic and international flows, the reduction of illicit financial flows and corruption, strengthened fiscal transparency, and fiscal decentralization commensurate with subnational institutional capacity and arrangements.

75. The principles of effective governance for sustainable development provided a useful cross-cutting framework for future work. The Committee would expand that framework with an emphasis on putting the principles into practice and reviewing outcomes. It would also examine matters relating to the government and public sector workforce of the future, building institutions for peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all, strengthening public sector training and budgeting for the Goals. and The Committee would consider the 2020 theme of the Council and the high-level political forum from a governance and public administration perspective.

76. The Committee recommended that the Council review and adopt a draft resolution on the report and a draft decision on the agenda of the Committee's nineteenth session. The report also contained the contribution of the Committee to the high-level political forum, a contribution related to the governance and public administration aspects of empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eighteenth session (E/2019/44)

77. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution: Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eighteenth session

78. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision: Dates and provisional agenda of the nineteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

79. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(i) Geospatial information (E/2019/75)

80. **The President** recalled that the Council had taken action, at its 21st meeting, held on 6 June 2019, on the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial

Information Management on its eighth session (E/2018/46).

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on its 2019 session (E/2019/75)

81. **The President** drew attention to the recommendations contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

Draft decision I

Draft decision II

Draft decision III

Draft decision IV

Draft decision V

Draft decision VI

82. *The draft decisions were adopted.*

(k) United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2019/42)

83. **Mr. Lawrence** (United States of America) said that his delegation had supported the United Nations Forum on Forests since its establishment and had no specific concerns about the recommendations contained in the report, but wished to highlight certain points raised during the fourteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in relation to the possible establishment of an office for the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network in China and the reform of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

84. With regard to the possible establishment of an office in China, the work of the Network must be carried out in a balanced, transparent and effective manner that maintained international best practices. His delegation called for full and timely updates on the possible establishment of such a field office and requested that the Secretariat actively seek the input of Member States on all matters related to the Forum budget and the Network's mandate. Any such office should preserve the international and multilateral character of the United Nations, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, and should be open and accessible to all members, civil society and other partners.

85. His delegation sought assurances that the personnel and activities of such an office would remain under the leadership and authority of the Forum. That principle should be clearly documented if steps were taken to establish such an office. No leadership position at the office should outrank the Director of the

secretariat of the Forum. The relationship between any such office and the Network should be clear, and the functions of the office should be carefully chosen to ensure that they were practical and cost-efficient and enabled remote work to be carried out from United Nations Headquarters. States members of the Forum should be able to review and comment on the memorandum of understanding related to the establishment of any such office. Although his delegation understood that the intention was for such an office to be supported by extrabudgetary funding, it wished to emphasize that the costs of the office's establishment and operation must come from voluntary contributions *ad infinitum*. His delegation requested that any agreement governing the establishment and functioning of such an office should explicitly provide for such funding and the agreement should be provided to Member States. He would welcome additional information from the Council on the issue.

86. In terms of the reform of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, his country fully supported the United Nations reform process and believed that, to continue to be effective and provide benefits, the Forum secretariat should maintain a strong and engaged position within the Department and the Council to highlight forest-related issues, continue to be compact, efficient and cost-effective, concentrate on interconnections within the United Nations system and be adequately equipped and resourced to carry out the priority actions that had been decided at the Forum sessions by its members. His delegation reaffirmed resolution 13/1 of the Forum, in which the Forum stressed the importance of maintaining the current and future ability of the Forum and the subprogramme entitled "Sustainable forest management" of the programme entitled "Economic and social affairs" to fulfil the Forum's important mandate and role and reaffirmed the intergovernmentally agreed mandates.

87. It was important to fill the position of Director of the Forum to ensure consistent leadership, representation and communication, as well as a clear signal of commitment from the United Nations and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to the continued functioning and visibility of the Forum. In a context in which transparency and information were paramount as the process moved forward, his delegation would welcome any information that could be shared on progress made.

88. **Mr. Black** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia, said that Member States had unanimously adopted the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, which was the first of its kind and had marked a watershed moment for the United Nations and

the world's forests. With regard to the reform of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the two delegations reaffirmed resolution 13/1 of the Forum and took note of the Secretary-General's assurances that the Department would remain exclusively responsible for supporting the Forum and delivering the respective mandates under subprogramme 8, which was a critical element of the work of the Department. He reiterated the importance of filling the position of the Director of the Forum as a clear signal of the commitment of the United Nations and the Department to the continued functioning and visibility of the Forum. In that context, he was concerned about the plans to downgrade the position of Director from the D-2 level, given that the successful implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 required expertise, authority and influence.

89. With regard to the possible establishment of an office of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network in China, Member States had recognized the importance of the work of the Network being carried out in a balanced, transparent and effective manner that maintained existing international best practices. Such provisions needed to be at the forefront of any consideration related to the establishment of such an office. In resolution 13/1, the Forum requested its secretariat to provide further details and regular reporting on the possible arrangements for, and operation of, the proposed office, taking into account the ongoing broader reforms in the Department and budget implications. The establishment and operation of any such office must be funded through voluntary national contributions. Any agreement governing the establishment and functioning of such an office should explicitly provide for such funding and should be provided to Member States in a timely manner.

90. Although the establishment of a satellite office was considered an administrative issue, important general principles needed to be respected; any such office had to preserve the international and multilateral character of the United Nations, the Forum and the Network, including being open and accessible to Member States, civil society and other partners. The two delegations called for assurances that the personnel and activities of such an office would remain under the leadership and authority of the Forum. That principle must be clearly documented if any steps were to be taken to establish such an office. It was also important to clarify the relationship between the office and the Network and the office's specific responsibilities and functions. States members of the Forum should be able to review and comment on the memorandum of understanding related to the establishment of any such

office before the conclusion of the process. Finally, he requested that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provide additional information on those issues to Member States in a timely manner.

91. **Ms. Schoepfer** (Switzerland) said that section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 9)) did not sufficiently take into account previous resolutions on the Forum and appeared to change the Forum's terms of reference by establishing performance measurements for only six projects in six countries, thereby transforming the Forum from a United Nations policy forum on forests into a project agency. In that regard, she recalled that, by its resolution 2000/35, the Council had established the Forum as an intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Council to serve as a permanent policy and political forum with the main objective of promoting the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end, and that, by its resolution 2015/33, the Council had decided to strengthen the international arrangement on forests and extend it to 2030. By the same resolution, the Council had also decided to improve and strengthen the functioning of the Forum beyond 2015 by requesting it to carry out its core functions on the basis of a strategic plan for the period 2017–2030. It was regrettable that those points were not appropriately reflected in the budget proposal.

92. **Mr. Kamiya** (Japan) said that the mandate of the Forum and the principles that had underpinned its establishment as an open and multilateral mechanism for interaction must be respected and reflected in its operations and budget. His delegation was concerned, however, that some of those elements had not been respected in recent times and therefore urged the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to meet the request made by Member States at the fourteenth session of the Forum for timely and concise disclosure in relation to the matters raised by the representatives of the United States and Canada.

93. **Mr. Varganov** (Russian Federation) said that the work of the Forum at its fourteenth session had been constructive and well-coordinated, and his delegation welcomed the report. However, it had questions about the plans, as part of the reforms of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for the Forum secretariat to become part of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals and for the post of its Director to be reclassified from the D-2 to the D-1 level, a reclassification which would, as stated in the proposed budget for the Department (A/74/6 (Sect. 9)), save \$18,500 per year from 2020. Given the ambitious tasks

and mandates of the United Nations in the area of forestry, the Russian Federation had repeatedly emphasized the importance of maintaining the independence of the Forum secretariat, which it financed annually on a voluntary basis. Moreover, it was unclear how merging the Forum secretariat with another division would affect the work of the staff and increase effectiveness, and whether a Director at the D-1 level would be able to carry out representative functions at events and meetings with senior United Nations officials, managers of private companies and civil society leaders. The independence of the Forum secretariat must be preserved and its leadership must remain at the current level.

94. **Mr. Badea** (Romania), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the Forum secretariat played a vital role in providing services to and supporting the Forum, and the reform of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs must not affect the Forum's ability to carry out its functions as set out in resolution [2015/33](#). Although his delegation noted the Secretary-General's reassurances, in the budget proposal for the Department, that a dedicated subprogramme and a direct reporting line to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs would be maintained, it would welcome more information on the reform measures envisaged.

95. Transparency was essential with regard to the establishment of a Forum office for the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network in China. By its resolution 13/1, the Forum requested the Forum secretariat to provide further details and regular reporting on the possible arrangements for, and operation of, the proposed office, taking into account the broader reforms in the Department and budget implications. However, the information provided at the fourteenth session had been incomplete and his delegation would welcome further details, including of the envisaged post allocations as per the host country agreement, which it understood had been finalized. Questions remained regarding the added value of establishing a secretariat office away from Headquarters, and information on the cost-benefit analysis in that regard would also be welcome. Oversight of the office by the Forum secretariat in New York must be ensured, particularly in view of the reform proposal for the secretariat.

96. **Mr. Moeini-Meybodi** (secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests) said that consultations on the possible establishment of an office for the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network in China, including the staffing table, were ongoing, with the last such consultation having been held in April 2019. The

consultations would take into account the comments, suggestions and proposals made by representatives during the fourteenth session of the Forum and at the current meeting of the Council.

97. The administrative and operational costs of the proposed office, including those related to human resources management and financial management, would be paid entirely from an extrabudgetary fund to be provided by the Government of China, and not from the regular budget of the United Nations or the trust fund for the Forum.

98. The office, including the recruitment of its staff, would be managed under the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. The staffing table remained under discussion, and consultations were under way on how best to provide additional information on progress with regard to the proposed office, as requested by Member States.

99. As requested by Member States at the fourteenth session, the Forum secretariat had transmitted the report on the session, including the summary by the Chair of the discussion of the reform of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to the United Nations bodies that addressed budgetary and administrative matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

100. There were no plans for the Forum to implement projects; its role was to strengthen countries' capacity to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management. In that context, a number of activities were being carried out, including the development of national forest financing strategies, for which Switzerland had recently contributed generously to the trust fund for the Forum. The Forum assisted countries in developing proposals for submission to international financing mechanisms, but did not implement such proposals.

101. **Ms. Guo Jingnan** (China) said that the consultations on the possible establishment of a new Forum office in China and had not been finalized. In the event that the office was established in China, the principles of efficiency and transparency would be followed.

Draft decision: Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fourteenth session

102. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fourteenth session", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its fourteenth session ([E/2019/42](#)).

103. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions *(continued)*

(g) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2019/43)

104. **Ms. Nuorgam** (Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues), introducing the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its eighteenth session (E/2019/43), said that the analysis and recommendations contained in the report would enrich international deliberations and provide valuable input to the work of Member States in promoting the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples. The theme of the session had been “Traditional knowledge: generation, transmission and protection”, a theme that was fundamental to the livelihoods and identities of indigenous peoples. However, traditional knowledge was often threatened by misappropriation and misuse and was not valued for its potential to address global challenges. Indigenous peoples’ knowledge systems and rights to self-determination, land, territory and natural resources must be strengthened.

105. 2019 was the International Year of Indigenous Languages. The Permanent Forum noted with appreciation that numerous countries and organizations were implementing initiatives to recover, revitalize and develop indigenous languages in collaboration with indigenous peoples. However, it reiterated its concern that 40 per cent of languages spoken around the world were in danger of disappearing, a situation that jeopardized the very survival of indigenous peoples.

106. The Forum was concerned that indigenous peoples, whose input to voluntary national reviews of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was crucial, were not participating in all stages of such implementation. In the area of follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum was concerned about the lack of implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and called for such implementation to be accelerated. The Permanent Forum continued the practice of holding interactive regional dialogues with Member States, indigenous peoples and United Nations agencies on the need to address the structural discrimination and marginalization confronting indigenous peoples.

107. The situation of indigenous human rights defenders remained alarming, as they were harassed, criminalized, prosecuted or even killed for exercising their legitimate rights. The Permanent Forum called upon Member States to take a zero-tolerance approach to violence against indigenous human rights defenders, implement all measures necessary to respect and protect

them, duly investigate any act against them and prosecute those responsible to the full extent of the law.

108. In the light of the Beijing Plus 25 Conference, to be held in 2020 to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Permanent Forum had reiterated its invitation to the Commission on the Status of Women to organize a high-level interactive dialogue on the rights of indigenous women in order to address the challenges they faced.

109. The Forum welcomed the promising initiatives – many of them community-based – that had been taken in different parts of the world and that could be replicated as good practices. It was encouraging that concrete steps were being taken to address historical injustices with a view to learning from the past, while addressing the future.

110. The Forum urged Member States and United Nations entities to continue their engagement with and support for indigenous peoples, including through the establishment of platforms to strengthen such partnerships. The theme of the 2020 session of the Forum, “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”, would allow the Forum to continue its deliberations and provide substantive input to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum recommended that an international expert group meeting be held on that theme in preparation for the 2020 session.

111. **Mr. Elizondo Belden** (Mexico), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Guatemala, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru and Spain, said that the recommendations contained in the report were a valuable contribution to the work of the United Nations and the formulation of national policies. They were essential to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The theme of the eighteenth session, “Traditional knowledge: generation, transmission and protection”, was particularly relevant given that 2019 was the International Year of Indigenous Languages. The nineteenth session would be an opportunity to enrich the dialogue between Member States and independent experts.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its eighteenth session (E/2019/43)

112. **The President** drew attention to the draft decisions contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

Draft decision I: International expert group meeting on the theme “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”

Draft decision II: Venue and dates for the nineteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Draft decision III: Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its eighteenth session and provisional agenda for its nineteenth session

113. *Draft decisions I, II and III were adopted.*

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.