



United Nations

Commission for Social Development

**Report on the fifty-eighth session
(21 February 2019 and
10–19 February 2020)**

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Summary

The fifty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development was held on 21 February 2019 and from 10 to 19 February 2020, with the priority theme of “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”. The Commission also reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, and the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. The Commission commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development by focusing the ministerial forum on “Twenty-five years of the World Summit for Social Development: addressing emerging societal challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. In addition, the Commission held a high-level panel discussion on the priority theme, a multi-stakeholder forum to share solutions to homelessness and an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme.

The Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development and a youth representative participated in the opening of the session. In opening remarks, the Under-Secretary-General highlighted the need to leverage the experience and lessons learned from the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development over the past 25 years to accelerate a decade of action and delivery of the 2030 Agenda for all people and the Sustainable Development Goals at the global, regional and national levels. He emphasized the Commission’s unique mandate to ensure that those left behind saw meaningful improvements in their daily lives as the United Nations embarked on a decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals for all. The Chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development recalled the landmark Copenhagen Declaration, advocating principles that remain unsurpassed today and highlighting the need for promoting human solidarity and social justice as the foundation for achieving sustainable development for all. The representative of the children and youth major group expressed concerns about rising homelessness among youth and children and emphasized the importance of a secure environment to develop their emotional resilience and physical health, while calling for more coordinated social policies to support the overall well-being of children.

The President of the General Assembly delivered an opening statement (via video message), and the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a keynote speech at the ministerial forum. They noted that the aim of the Social Summit was to help all people in all countries to reach their full potential in life. After 25 years, the challenges identified at the Summit persisted and new challenges had also emerged, referring to trends, notably, on poverty and inequality, technical innovation, population, migration and climate change. The Commission, with the mandates to discuss issues across the whole spectrum of social policy and social development, had an important role to address those challenges in the continued implementation of the outcome of the Social Summit and the new commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda.

During the general discussion, delegations noted that the choice of the priority theme reflected the role of the Commission, as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development, of deliberating on issues closely linked to social progress and the well-being of people. Homelessness was one of the crudest manifestations of poverty, inequality and housing affordability challenges, and it affected people of all ages and of diverse economic, social and cultural backgrounds across regions. Homelessness was driven by multiple structural causes – including

persistent inequality; a lack of access to education, health care, and productive employment and decent work; rapid population growth; rapid urbanization; and rural poverty – and was also affected by climate change, extreme weather events and natural disasters, armed conflict and cross-border terrorism. Eviction, mental disorders, and drug and alcohol abuse were also among the leading causes of homelessness. Member States shared their national experiences in addressing homelessness and underscored the importance of preventive policies, combining housing and social inclusion policies that supported the reintegration of homeless people into society. Countries had also taken a rights-based approach to providing social and housing assistance, in accordance with their national laws and practices; provided social protection benefits, including cash transfers; launched a “housing-first” strategy to reduce chronic homelessness by building sustainable, accessible and inclusive housing; introduced a stimulus package to encourage social housing development; and facilitated access to financial products and better interest rates. Several countries had improved data collection on homeless populations, including by conducting national surveys, while others had raised awareness to combat discrimination against people experiencing homelessness. The importance of the practice of sport and physical activity to homeless people, including its social benefits and the opportunities it brought to overcome challenges linked to homelessness, was highlighted.

Delegations also highlighted the need for broader social protection systems to support families, as they were the fundamental unit of society and played an important role in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. The importance of strengthening collaboration between the United Nations and Member States through the exchange of information and expertise, capacity-building activities, technical support and intersectoral dialogues to promote cooperation to help address common challenges was also emphasized. Delegations highlighted population ageing as one of the major trends likely to affect the prospect of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and called upon all to strengthen implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, as well as for the age-inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, by strengthening an integrated approach to improving the well-being of and promoting the rights and dignity of older persons.

During the high-level panel discussion on the priority theme, panellists and delegates underscored the need to define and measure homelessness in order to design appropriate action to combat it. It was emphasized that homelessness went beyond people living on the streets. Family homelessness was a growing problem at the global level, and many women, children and persons with disabilities experiencing homelessness were the “hidden homeless”.

At the ministerial forum, ministers from five regions shared their national experience in addressing emerging societal challenges based on the implementation of the Copenhagen Programme of Action.

During the interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system, the observers for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) highlighted the fact that housing was a fundamental human right and that access to housing was a prerequisite for individual socioeconomic development and sustainable development for all. A multisectoral approach was necessary to address the structural causes of homelessness, which disproportionately affected those who were already in vulnerable situations. A strong link between disaster risk and the risk of homelessness, particularly in poor and marginalized communities, was highlighted.

The first-ever multi-stakeholder forum provided a space to share solutions to a complex challenge from various perspectives, including that of persons who had experienced homelessness, who were invited to the forum. The panellists highlighted the importance of addressing the structural causes of homelessness, rather than only treating individual factors. Safe, affordable housing, decent work, addressing prejudice and discrimination in the provision of public services and promoting gender equality and empowerment of women were all essential. People experiencing homelessness also needed to be part of the solutions. The panellists reiterated the need to build strong partnerships between the private and public sectors. An alliance between local governments and the private sector was critical to prevent homelessness by providing pathways to decent work for vulnerable populations.

The Commission decided that the priority theme for the fifty-ninth session would be “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”. The Commission adopted three draft resolutions, on social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness, and modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, all of which were recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

The President of the Economic and Social Council delivered remarks at the closing session. She commended the Commission for having adopted the groundbreaking resolution on the issue of homelessness. Noting the Commission’s work in supporting Member States in their implementation of the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in an integrated manner, she underscored the important role of the Commission in promoting inclusive social development, especially in cross-cutting thematic areas, such as poverty, inequality, employment, the family and issues related to youth, older persons and persons with disabilities.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I **Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development**

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,¹ and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,² the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁴ and reaffirming the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002,⁵

Recognizing the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa⁶ and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008,⁷ and noting the relevant decisions of African Union summits related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,⁸

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

¹ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 57/2.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 68.

⁷ General Assembly resolution 63/1.

⁸ A/57/304, annex.

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015, containing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming further Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2015, and the first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023) of Agenda 2063, in which flagship projects, priority areas and policy measures to support the implementation of the continental development framework were outlined and form the strategic framework for Africa’s inclusive growth and sustainable development and optimization of the use of the continent’s resources for the benefit of all its people,

Recalling the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, on the theme “Strengthening the African family for inclusive development in Africa”, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014, and the first session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, on the theme “Social protection for inclusive development”, held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 24 April 2015, recalling in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2009, as well as the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014) and the renewed Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010–2019), which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2013, and noting the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa in January 2016,

Acknowledging the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 and the programme of the New Partnership, both of which are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena, and underscoring in this regard the importance of a coherent and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution [71/254](#) of 23 December 2016, entitled “Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa’s Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027”, and welcoming in this regard the signing on 27 January 2018 of the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote the integrated and coordinated implementation and monitoring of and reporting on both Agendas through joint activities and programmes,

Acknowledging that the attainment of the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063 is critical to ensuring a high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens of Africa through income security, jobs and decent work, poverty and hunger eradication, inequality reduction, social security and protection floors, particularly for persons with disabilities, modern, affordable and liveable habitats and quality basic services, healthy and nourished citizens with access to health care, environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities, full gender equality in all spheres of life and engaged and empowered youth and children,

Recalling the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa adopted by the African Union, which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms aimed at promoting

economic and social development and reducing poverty on the continent through the implementation of integrated regional infrastructure networks,

Recalling also the convening of the third session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, in Addis Ababa from 1 to 5 April 2019, during which ministers tasked the African Union Commission with drafting a Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security, as well as a Social Agenda 2063,

Noting with concern the continued high prevalence of child, early and forced marriage, as well as violence and other harmful practices against children, including female genital mutilation, and reaffirming in this regard the Africa-wide campaign to end child marriage in Africa, launched at the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014, the Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage and the endorsement by the Pan-African Parliament in August 2016 of a ban on female genital mutilation,

Recognizing that, after the latest global financial crisis, the global economy is still facing difficult macroeconomic conditions, low commodity prices, subdued trade growth and volatile capital flows, that, notwithstanding the impact of the financial crisis, financial flows and the share of developing countries in world trade have continued to increase, that these advances have contributed to a substantial reduction in the number of people living in extreme poverty, and that, despite these gains, many countries, particularly developing countries, still face considerable challenges and some have fallen further behind, emphasizing that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership programme, and in this regard encouraging African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa,

Recognizing also that investments in people, especially in their social protection, health-inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, are essential to enhancing productivity in all sectors, including agriculture, and thereby key to sustainable and equitable growth and poverty reduction, through increasing decent job creation and employability opportunities for all, especially for women and youth, improving food security and nutrition and building resilience,

Recognizing further that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the enjoyment of all human rights, will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial, and in this regard recalling the adoption, at the second ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, in Maputo on 11 July 2003, and the African Women's Decade (2010–2020), and commending the adoption of the African Union Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at the third session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, held in Addis Ababa from 7 to 11 May 2018,

Recognizing that the lack of access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation contributes to slow progress in reducing Africa's disease burden, particularly among the poorest populations, in both rural and urban areas, and conscious of the impact of

the lack of sanitation on people's health, poverty reduction efforts, economic and social development and the environment, in particular water resources,

Noting with appreciation that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and its advancement, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, and bilateral donors have provided substantial full debt relief to 30 African countries that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has considerably reduced their public debt, improved their debt management, boosted their social spending and reduced their poverty level,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, bearing in mind also the need for their development efforts to be supported by the international community and an enabling international economic environment, reiterating the need for the international community to implement all commitments regarding the economic and social development of Africa, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conferences on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,⁹

Underscoring that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁰
2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African Governments in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development⁸ to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encouraging them, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;
3. *Takes note* of the strengthening of the African Peer Review Mechanism through the decision of the Assembly of the African Union to make the Mechanism an organ of the African Union in line with article 5, paragraph 2, of its Constitutive Act,¹¹ and welcomes the progress that has been achieved in implementing the Mechanism;
4. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;
5. *Takes note* of the development of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 by Africa's regional economic communities, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New

⁹ See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex; and General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex, and resolution 69/313, annex.

¹⁰ E/CN.5/2020/2.

¹¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2158, No. 37733.

Partnership, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Symposium on Statistical Development, as well as the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, both of which have fostered convergence in the monitoring and evaluation of the first 10-year implementation plan and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a unified implementation and monitoring plan for Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ and notes the incorporation of the first 10-year implementation plan into national planning frameworks by 35 countries;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption of the governance structures of the African Union Development Agency, the implementing mechanism for the African Union Agenda 2063 development strategy, during the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union, held in Niamey on 4 and 5 July 2019, and whose mission is to foster the development of the continent through effective and integrated planning, coordination and implementation of Agenda 2063 with Member States, regional economic communities and pan-African institutions by leveraging partnerships and technical cooperation;

7. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of all women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the African Union Commission, which have resulted in the launch of national campaigns to end child, early and forced marriage in 24 countries, the adoption of the African Common Position on the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa and the endorsement by the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa in February 2019 of the continental initiative to be known as "Saleema: African Union Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation", in partnership with the United Nations;

9. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the launch, on 24 August 2018 in Addis Ababa, by the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Telecommunication Union, of the African Girls Can Code Initiative (2018–2022), which is aimed at enhancing the mastering of information and communications technology for girls and women and, therefore, increasing their contribution to Africa's innovation in that sector;

10. *Recognizes* the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa in support of regional and continental integration with a focus on the movement of people and goods (the Move Africa initiative), through the "traffic light system", which has been operationalized at four pilot "one-stop border posts";

11. *Acknowledges* the progress made towards ensuring free movement of persons as well as goods and services in Africa, and in this regard welcomes with appreciation the entry into force on 30 May 2019 of the agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area, which aims to boost intra-African trade and continental integration, and the launch of its operational phase on 7 July 2019;

12. *Recalls* the African Union Road Map on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth and the first five-year priority programme on employment, poverty eradication and inclusive development 2017, and welcomes the declaration by the African Union of the period from 2018 to 2027 as the African Decade for Technical, Professional and Entrepreneurial Training and Youth

Employment, with a focus on the creation of decent jobs for youth and women, aimed at achieving more inclusive growth and sustainable poverty eradication;

13. *Notes* the decision of the ministers of the Executive Council of the African Union, at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, to adopt as the theme for the year 2020 “Silencing the guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa’s development”;

14. *Urges* all countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,¹² encourages States parties to review its implementation, committing to making the Convention an effective instrument for deterring, detecting, preventing and countering corruption and bribery, prosecuting those involved in corrupt activities and recovering and returning stolen assets to their country of origin, as appropriate, encourages the international community to develop good practices on asset return, expresses support for the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations and the World Bank and other international initiatives that support the recovery of stolen assets, urges the updating and ratification of regional conventions against corruption, and strives to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows;

15. *Calls upon* African Governments to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa, to demonstrate the commitment of Member States to the dignity, empowerment and rights of persons with disabilities and older persons across the continent;

16. *Notes* that health is a precondition, an indicator and an outcome of sustainable development and that, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, robust efforts are needed to integrate additional health issues into a broad health and development agenda, and therefore takes note of the declaration of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at its thirty-second ordinary session, in which it committed to supporting and enhancing the reform of the health sector through adopting the health in all policies approach in order to achieve universal health coverage and curb the outbreak of major diseases in Africa and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

17. *Takes note with appreciation* of the revised Africa Health Strategy for the period 2016–2030, which was endorsed by the Assembly of the African Union in 2016, with the main objectives of strengthening health systems, improving performance, increasing investments in health, improving equity, addressing social determinants of health to reduce priority disease burdens by 2030 and helping member States to more effectively manage the risks of disasters in a more systematic manner;

18. *Urges* African Governments to fast-track the implementation of the revised Africa Health Strategy, which provides umbrella guidance for the development of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy, the Maputo Plan of Action 2016–2030 for the Operationalization of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS and Tuberculosis and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030, welcomes the Declaration on Universal Access to Immunization as a Cornerstone for Health and Development in Africa adopted by African Ministers of Health in 2016, and the 2017 declaration on committing to accelerate implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005),¹³ and also urges African Governments

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

¹³ World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

to achieve ambitious targets, a business case and strategic priorities to end the three diseases as a public health threat by 2030;

19. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard recalls the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, welcomes the fact that 51 African countries have since integrated the objectives of the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa into their national strategies, and urges the pursuit and implementation of commitments to improve maternal and child health;

20. *Takes note* of the declaration of the special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja from 12 to 16 July 2013, on the progress made in implementing the Abuja actions towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa by 2030, also takes note of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, adopted on 8 June 2016 at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS,¹⁴ and reaffirms the resolve to provide assistance for prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of ensuring an Africa free of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, by addressing the needs of all, in particular those of women, children and young people, and the urgent need to significantly scale up efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care and support in African countries, to accelerate and intensify efforts to expand access to affordable and quality medicines in Africa, including antiretroviral drugs, by encouraging pharmaceutical companies to make drugs available, and to ensure strengthened global partnership and increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems;

21. *Also takes note* of the decision of the African Union to extend the African Union Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa from 2016 to 2020 so as to achieve full implementation, notes the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa as an African high-level platform from which to advocate action, accountability and resource mobilization for the response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa, and requests, as appropriate, and in line with relevant international obligations, development partners and the United Nations system to support the efforts of African countries and organizations to reach the main objectives put forward in the Road Map, including achieving diversified sustainable financing, strengthening regulatory harmonization and local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and enhancing leadership and governance of the responses;

22. *Invites* development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including by providing support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of disease, including outbreaks of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

23. *Encourages* Member States to continue to provide international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries, particularly African countries, in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment,

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 70/266, annex.

recycling and reuse technologies, and notes the strategy of the African Ministers' Council on Water for the period 2018–2030, launched for the achievement of the African Water Vision 2025, Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals;

24. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

25. *Also emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

26. *Further emphasizes* that the poverty, inequality and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure productive employment creation and decent work for all, to promote quality education, health and social protection and to enhance equality, social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

27. *Emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services, are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

28. *Encourages* African countries to continue to prioritize structural transformation, modernize smallholder agriculture, add value to primary commodities, improve public and private institutions of economic and political governance and invest in major public infrastructure projects and in inclusive, equitable and quality education and health in order to promote inclusive growth, generate full and productive employment and decent work for all and reduce poverty;

29. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including employment-intensive resource-based industrial development, with due regard to the sustainable management and use of natural resources, infrastructural development and structural transformation, in particular in the rural economy, based on pragmatic and targeted policies to enhance productive capacities in Africa that are consistent with national development priorities and international commitments, can generate employment and income for all African men and women, including the poor, and therefore be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

30. *Encourages* African countries to continue to foster political stability, promote peace and security and strengthen the governance, policy and institutional environment in order to enhance the prospects for inclusive and sustainable development, and to develop an enabling environment for the private sector to contribute to sustainable economic transformation and the creation of productive employment and decent work for all;

31. *Stresses* that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use such assistance effectively and facilitate the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, to developing

countries, and also stresses that the resolution of unsustainable debt situations is critical for heavily indebted poor countries, while remittances have become a significant source of income and finance for receiving economies and their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development;

32. *Notes with concern* that the preliminary data indicate that the net bilateral aid flows to Africa decreased in 2018 compared with 2017 figures;

33. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, is encouraged by those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges all others to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards official development assistance targets;

34. *Recognizes* that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development and that, in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination and better and focused support of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders, and therefore requests those stakeholders to ensure that the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries are appropriately considered and addressed, in a tailored fashion, in their relevant strategies and policies, with a view to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach towards individual countries, while also acknowledging that official development assistance and other concessional finance is still important for a number of these countries and has a role to play for targeted results, taking into account the specific needs of these countries;

35. *Also recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the resolution of challenges faced by developing countries, especially the least developed countries, including in Africa, to independently achieving sustainable development;

36. *Further recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

37. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the African Union to realign the clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa to deal with the major themes of both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and invites development partners, including the United Nations system, to continue to support the Mechanism in achieving its objectives, including through the allocation of the financing necessary to support the implementation of its activities;

38. *Encourages* African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen the capacity of subnational and national statistical systems in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development

policies and strategies and of the implementation of commitments for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals at the local, national, regional and international levels, and in this regard urges donor countries and organizations, including the United Nations system, and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development;

39. *Takes note* of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024, which aims to have an impact across critical sectors such as agriculture, energy, environment, health, infrastructure development, mining, security and water;

40. *Underlines* the importance for African Governments to build the productive capacity of sustainable agriculture, as a top priority, in order to increase rural incomes and ensure access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase the access of smallholder farmers, in particular women, to necessary agricultural resources, including productive assets, and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote rural-urban linkages through small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

41. *Urges* African Governments, within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to expand investment financing to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the annual budget of the national public sector while at the same time ensuring necessary action in policy and institutional reforms for enhanced performance of the agriculture industry and systems;

42. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme's investment plans for the alignment of external funding;

43. *Welcomes* progress made in addressing issues such as food security through the adoption of a resolution on the development of a model law on food security and nutrition in Africa in October 2018 by the Pan-African Parliament, and the development of a technical cooperation project to incorporate indigenous crops into the African nutritious food basket for improved food security and nutrition, and notes the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa;

44. *Reaffirms* that among the objectives of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution [72/233](#) of 20 December 2017, are maintenance of the momentum generated by the implementation of the Second Decade and support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, for the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Sustainable Development Goals and their objective of leaving no one behind;

45. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth capable of being employment-intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, aimed at reducing inequalities, increasing productive employment, generating decent work for all, particularly those who are vulnerable, including women and young people, and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

46. *Emphasizes* the need, in particular for African countries, to enhance capacity-building for sustainable development, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and reiterates the importance of adequate human

resources development, including through training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including policy coherence, coordination and implementation, as well as planning, management and monitoring capacities;

47. *Also emphasizes* the importance of increasing international cooperation to improve the quality of and access to education, including efforts to realize girls' right to education, in particular for African countries, including through building and strengthening education-related infrastructure and increasing investment in education, and takes note of continental initiatives such as the African Union International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa, which implemented activities in line with its strategic plan for the period 2018–2020;

48. *Urges* African countries and development partners to meet the needs of young people and empower them, in particular by tackling the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of quality education, skills training and entrepreneurship programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas, and in this regard takes note of the launch at the Pan African Youth Forum on the theme "Africa unite for youth: bridging the gap and reaching African youth", held in Addis Ababa from 24 to 27 April 2019, of the African Union 1 million by 2021 initiative, which targets direct investments in millions of African youth on four key elements, namely employment, entrepreneurship, education and engagement, through leveraging partnerships and private sector opportunities;

49. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the General Assembly to bridging digital and knowledge divides, recognizes that its approach must be multidimensional and include an evolving understanding of what constitutes access, emphasizing the quality of that access, and acknowledges that speed, stability, affordability, language, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities are now core elements of the quality of such access and that high-speed broadband is already an essential enabler of sustainable development;

50. *Recognizes* that improving access to school for all girls and boys, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized, and their ability to receive a quality education, and improving the quality of education beyond primary school can have a positive impact in terms of empowerment and on social, economic and political participation and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

51. *Also recognizes* that Africa's youthful population creates significant opportunities for the continent's development, and underlines in this regard the importance of African countries creating appropriate policy environments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, in order to realize a demographic dividend, while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

52. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide relevant skills training for youth, high-quality health-care services and dynamic labour markets to employ a growing population;

53. *Recognizes* the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for

financing for sustainable development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

54. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

55. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012, which can serve as a guideline for social investment;

56. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the African Union and its New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa;

57. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on advocacy and communication to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership, and urges the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

58. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the work programmes of the Commission include social dimensions of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

59. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership and give due consideration to Agenda 2063 of the African Union at its fifty-ninth session;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolution [73/335](#) of 10 September 2019, entitled “New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support”, to submit to the Commission for Social Development, for its consideration at its fifty-ninth session, an action-oriented report with recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies in regard to the social dimensions of the New Partnership, Agenda 2063 and its links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account current processes related to social development in Africa.

Draft resolution II

Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution [2019/4](#) of 6 June 2019, in which it decided that the priority theme of the 2020 session of the Commission for Social Development would be “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”,

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development¹ and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session² constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels, and encouraging the continued global dialogue on social development issues,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, and its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

Recognizing the importance of implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieving substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable, and ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution [74/4](#) of 15 October 2019, entitled “Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly”,

Recalling further the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³ which, inter alia, recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself or herself and his or her family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and noting the relevance of these provisions to the formulation of family-oriented housing and social protection policies and measures,

Recalling the New Urban Agenda,⁴ which, inter alia, promotes cities and human settlements that fulfil their social function, including the social and ecological function of land, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of

¹ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution [S-24/2](#), annex.

³ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.

living, without discrimination, and recalling also the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁵ which promotes the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development and implementation, including urban planning, land degradation assessments and informal and non-permanent housing,

Noting the important work undertaken by the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which has led to the formulation of global indicators, including on social protection and access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing,

Noting also the importance of aggregated and disaggregated data for formulating effective policies to address homelessness and the need to make concerted efforts to identify people experiencing homelessness, both temporarily and chronically,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development⁶ and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Recognizing that addressing homelessness, including through affordable housing policies and social protection systems and measures for all, including floors for all, assists Member States in realizing the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing, in implementing the New Urban Agenda and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting that homelessness can be an obstacle to the effective enjoyment of all human rights and it needs to be addressed through urgent national, multilateral and global responses,

Noting with concern that climate change is predicted to increase the frequency, irregularity and intensity of both sudden- and slow-onset natural disasters such as hurricanes and droughts, heightening the risk of homelessness, including for those who have been displaced owing to natural disasters,

Noting with concern also that humanitarian emergencies may also lead to homelessness, including among people who become refugees or internally displaced persons,

Noting with concern further that homelessness among adolescents and youth is a major concern in many countries and that youth have been identified as the population group most at risk of becoming homeless,

Noting with concern that homelessness among children is increasing and that abandoned children, children who are orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS, children or youth with homeless parents, or children displaced by humanitarian emergencies, including armed conflicts and natural disasters, and unaccompanied migrant children often experience homelessness,

Reaffirming its resolutions [2016/7](#) and [2016/8](#) of 2 June 2016, in which Governments are encouraged to continue to develop, improve, extend and implement inclusive, effective, fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures and in which it is acknowledged that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty, vulnerability and homelessness,

⁵ General Assembly resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

⁶ [A/57/304](#), annex.

and are therefore essential to end the marginalization of the homeless and help them to integrate into society,

Noting that, increasingly, countries are expanding the fiscal space available for introducing various elements of social protection, and that a number of middle- and even low-income countries have already initiated components of national social protection systems and extended them successfully, with demonstrable positive impacts on poverty eradication,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁷
2. *Acknowledges* the urgent need to accelerate action on all levels and by all stakeholders to fulfil the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁸ and emphasizes that the international community, through the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits adopted by the General Assembly, has reinforced, inter alia, the urgency of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combating inequality within and among countries, protecting the environment, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion within the United Nations development agenda, including the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development,¹ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁹ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030⁵ and the New Urban Agenda;⁴
3. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for all by ensuring that no one would be left behind and reaching the furthest behind first, and by recognizing human rights and that the dignity of the human person is fundamental;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights, in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, while recognizing that homelessness constitutes a violation of human dignity and may be an obstacle to the fulfilment of all human rights and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to address it;
5. *Reaffirms* that poverty has various forms and dimensions, including homelessness and living in inadequate housing, which is often linked to lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihoods, hunger and malnutrition, ill health, limited or lack of access to education and other basic services, increased morbidity and mortality from illness, unsafe environments, and social discrimination and exclusion, and that these factors make individuals and their families vulnerable to homelessness;
6. *Also reaffirms* that urban and rural poverty should further be addressed by, inter alia, promoting public and private investments to improve, for deprived persons, the overall human environment and infrastructure, in particular housing, water and sanitation, and public transportation; and promoting social and other essential services, including, where necessary, assistance for people to move to areas that offer better employment opportunities, housing, education, health and other social services;
7. *Notes* that homelessness is not merely a lack of physical housing, but is often interrelated with poverty, lack of productive employment and access to infrastructure, as well as other social issues that may constitute a loss of family, community and a sense of belonging, and, depending on national context, can be described as a condition where a person or household lacks habitable space, which may

⁷ E/CN.5/2020/3.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁹ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

compromise their ability to enjoy social relations, and includes people living on the streets, in other open spaces or in buildings not intended for human habitation, people living in temporary accommodation or shelters for the homeless, and, in accordance with national legislation, may include, among others, people living in severely inadequate accommodation without security of tenure and access to basic services;

8. *Notes with concern* that homelessness is a global problem, affecting people of different ages and with diverse economic, social and cultural backgrounds, in both developed and developing countries, and that, while homelessness is mainly driven by structural causes, including inequalities, poverty, a loss of housing and livelihood, a lack of decent job opportunities, lack of access to affordable housing, including owing to negative impacts of the commodification of housing, lack of social protection, lack of access to land, credit or financing, and high costs of energy or health care, as well as lack of financial and legal literacy, it could be also related to a number of contributing factors, and social issues including drug and alcohol abuse and mental disorder and other mental conditions;

9. *Recognizes* that homelessness is a complex issue that requires a multisectoral approach and integrated responses, cutting across fiscal, economic, labour, housing, health, social protection, urban development, environmental and population policies, and emphasizes the need to take whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to address and prevent homelessness, by adopting policies that are inclusive of and responsive to the needs and aspirations of individuals, especially those in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations;

10. *Also recognizes* that homelessness can be driven by family and personal circumstances and economic crises, including mental disorders and other mental health conditions, family breakdown, divorce, separation and abandonment, domestic violence and child abuse;

11. *Invites* Member States to develop comprehensive, intersectoral national strategies and specific policy interventions to address homelessness, taking into consideration existing frameworks and instruments related to homelessness;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to collect disaggregated data on demographics, such as by age, sex and disability, related to homelessness and establish categories of homelessness, accompanying the existing measurement tools, and encourages Member States to harmonize the measurement and collection of data on homelessness to enable national and global policymaking;

13. *Encourages* Member States to promote affordable and equitable access to basic services, in particular quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including programmes that promote equality and inclusion through the affirmation of the fundamental dignity of the human person, and health care, including through the acceleration of the transition towards equitable access to universal health coverage, as well as access to affordable housing, nutrition and food, and access to employment and decent work, information and communications technology and infrastructure, through advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

14. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting labour market policies that strengthen institutions and provide adequate labour protection to all workers, especially the most disadvantaged, including through minimum wage policies, while taking into account the role of workers' and employers' organizations, as applicable, as part of policies to boost income growth for the vast majority of workers, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of each country;

15. *Encourages* Member States to implement policies that support the full and productive participation of women in the labour market, including women with disabilities, and promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, access to

childcare facilities, the reconciliation of family and professional life, and the sharing of responsibilities between parents, and that also promote meaningful participation in the economy and in decision-making processes at all levels;

16. *Encourages* national and local governments to improve access to affordable housing through integrated housing policies and social protection measures, including social protection on both the demand and the supply sides, including by addressing legal and policy barriers to equal and non-discriminatory access to adequate housing, including for women of all ages and women-headed households, and providing access to credit facilities, as well as through protection against unlawful forced eviction, the provision of adequate emergency and temporary shelter and services and security of tenancy and support for the development of affordable housing, which is especially important for low-income households;

17. *Invites* national and local governments, in collaboration with the private sector and local communities, to stimulate the supply of a variety of adequate housing options that are safe, affordable and accessible for members of different income groups of society, and to take positive measures to improve the living conditions of homeless people, with a view to facilitating their full participation in society, and to prevent and eliminate homelessness;

18. *Also invites* national and local governments to increase allocations of financial and human resources, as appropriate, for the upgrading and, to the extent possible, prevention of slums and informal settlements;

19. *Recognizes* that an affordable housing policy, while essential, is not sufficient to end homelessness, that it should be accompanied by other measures such as social protection policies, and that nationally appropriate social protection systems for all address multiple, often interrelated and complex causes of homelessness by preventing poverty, easing the burden of certain expenditure during periods of unemployment, contributing to health-related goals, gender equality and decent work, and facilitating the inclusion of persons with disabilities;

20. *Also recognizes* that nationally appropriate social protection systems can make a critical contribution to the realization of human rights for all, in particular for those who are trapped in poverty and homelessness, and that promoting universal access to social services and providing nationally appropriate social protection floors can contribute to reducing inequality and poverty, addressing social exclusion and promoting inclusive economic growth;

21. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with national circumstances, to establish as quickly as possible and maintain the social protection floors that comprise basic social security, so that all those in need have access to essential health care, including maternity, newborn, child, long-term and palliative care, that meets the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality, and to basic income security for children and basic income security for persons of active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability, inter alia, in the context of enabling employment, and basic income security for older persons, as set out in the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) of the International Labour Organization;

22. *Recognizes* the important role that families can play in combating social exclusion, and highlights the importance of investing in inclusive and responsive family-oriented policies and programmes in areas such as education, training, decent work, work-family balance, health care, social services, intergenerational relationships and solidarity and targeted cash transfers for vulnerable families, in order to reduce inequality and promote the well-being of all persons of all ages, as well as to contribute

to better outcomes for children and other vulnerable family members in vulnerable situations and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty;

23. *Also recognizes* the importance of providing social protection schemes for the formal and informal economy as instruments for achieving equity, inclusion and the stability and cohesion of societies, and emphasizes the importance of supporting national efforts aimed at bringing informal workers into the formal economy;

24. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuing to strengthen national social protection policies and systems and expand the coverage of social protection floors to all, including people working in the informal sector and those experiencing homelessness, while also investing in quality basic social services to ensure equal access to quality education, universal health coverage, safe drinking water and sanitation;

25. *Recognizes* the importance of the practice of sport and physical activity for homeless people, including youth and students facing homelessness, and of access to sport infrastructure, and highlights that sport can provide important social benefits to homeless people as well as opportunities to overcome challenges linked to homelessness, social exclusion and lack of perspectives;

26. *Encourages* Member States to provide universal age-, disability- and gender-sensitive social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for families in vulnerable situations, such as when headed by a single parent, in particular those headed by women, and which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to basic services, high-quality education and health services;

27. *Stresses* the need to better coordinate social protection policies and measures with poverty reduction programmes and other social policies to avoid excluding people in informal or precarious jobs;

28. *Invites* Member States, in the context of their national sustainable development frameworks and the associated integrated financing frameworks, to formulate and implement national strategies to extend social security and essential social services to all, that are responsive to shocks, sustainable in the long run and with a focus on those furthest below the poverty line and negatively affected by climate change and natural and human-made disasters, within their economic and fiscal capacities;

29. *Recognizes* the importance of developing national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020, in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and of promoting their alignment and integration with sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies, and also recognizes that the development of climate change adaptation and national disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 is an opportunity to maximize synergies across the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement¹⁰ and the Sendai Framework;

30. *Also recognizes* that adequate temporary accommodations can be useful for those persons who have lost their homes because of humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters, and that assistance for their transition to permanent housing should be provided in a timely manner, in accordance with national circumstances, to shorten the time spent homeless;

31. *Further recognizes* the need to address family homelessness, including through gender-sensitive policies and resource allocation and appropriate support services for families to break the cycle of intergenerational homelessness;

¹⁰ See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

32. *Encourages* Member States to continue to enact inclusive and responsive family-oriented policies and to confront social exclusion, recognizing the multidimensional aspects of social exclusion, focusing on inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning for all, health and well-being for all at all ages, full and productive employment, decent work, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through gender- and age-sensitive social protection systems and measures, such as child allowances for parents and pension benefits for older persons, and to ensure that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected;

33. *Emphasizes* the importance of supporting countries in their efforts to address homelessness through combating inequalities and challenges to social inclusion, giving particular attention to those who are in vulnerable situations;

34. *Calls upon* Member States to combat discrimination and negative stereotypes against people experiencing homelessness, including by strengthening anti-discrimination laws, advocacy and awareness-raising;

35. *Recognizes* that Governments have the primary responsibility to end homelessness, while noting that civil society organizations play an important role in delivering services, and encourages all actors to build a broad-based partnership at all levels to prevent people from falling into homelessness, support those experiencing homelessness and develop long-term sustainable solutions to end homelessness;

36. *Also recognizes* that the private sector can also contribute to addressing deficits in affordable housing on both the supply (land and infrastructure, construction and materials) and demand sides;

37. *Encourages* national and local governments, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations and other stakeholders, inter alia, academia and civil society organizations, including philanthropic organizations, to raise awareness of homelessness, including family homelessness, and address the specific needs of individuals and groups, in particular young people in vulnerable situations who are affected by homelessness, to support their empowerment and full participation in the societies in which they live;

38. *Recognizes* that domestic resources mobilization, underscored by the principle of national ownership and supplemented by international assistance, as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

39. *Reaffirms* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes the need to take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation;

40. *Also reaffirms* that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

41. *Encourages* developed countries to implement their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

42. *Welcomes* the contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development, and reaffirms that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement

to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and commits itself to strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;

43. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

44. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to continue to promote the exchange of information and good practices on programmes, policies and measures that successfully reduce inequality in all its dimensions, address challenges to social inclusion, and address homelessness through affordable housing and social protection policies, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Draft resolution III

Modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002,¹ the systematic review of its implementation by Member States was requested as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons,

Recalling also that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society, including organizations of older persons, to participate in a bottom-up approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind that the Commission for Social Development, in its resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,²

Noting that the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action will take place in 2023, and recognizing that, with the fourth review and appraisal exercise, the Second World Assembly on Ageing approaches its 20-year anniversary,

Noting also the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and its contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ and stressing the need to ensure that older persons are taken into account in its implementation in order to ensure that no one is left behind, including older persons,

Recalling also the establishment by the Statistical Commission of the Titchfield Group on Ageing-related Statistics and Age-disaggregated Data,

Recalling further the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁴ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁵ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁵ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁶ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁷ and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁸

Noting the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, appointed by the Human Rights Council, on the assessment of the human rights implications of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,⁹

1. *Endorses* the timeline for carrying out the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,¹ as outlined in the report of

¹ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6 (E/2004/26)*, chap. I, sect. E.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

⁵ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁹ E/CN.5/2020/4.

the Secretary-General,⁹ in which, inter alia, it is determined that the global review will take place in 2023;

2. *Decides* that the procedure for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action will follow the set procedure of the third review and appraisal exercise;

3. *Invites* Member States to identify actions they have taken since the third review and appraisal exercise, with the aim of presenting this information to the regional commissions during 2022, and invites each Member State to decide for itself the actions or activities it intends to review, utilizing a bottom-up participatory approach;

4. *Encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen a national coordinating body or mechanism, as appropriate, in order to, inter alia, facilitate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including its review and appraisal;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to utilize more fully, within their specific national circumstances, a bottom-up participatory approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action by inviting, inter alia, civil society, including organizations of older persons, to participate in the fourth review and appraisal cycle at the national and regional levels by submitting their views on the implementation of the Plan of Action and on regional plans of action, and further encourages Member States to consider providing adequate assistance for the participation of civil society in the review and appraisal;

6. *Invites* Member States to consider collecting and utilizing, in their national review and appraisal exercises, a combination of quantitative and participatory qualitative data gathering and analysis, disaggregated by age and also, when necessary, by other relevant factors, including sex and disability, and, where appropriate, sharing of best practices in such data collection;

7. *Requests* the regional commissions to continue to facilitate the review and appraisal exercise at the regional level, including through consultation with relevant regional bodies, as appropriate, by, inter alia:

(a) Providing assistance to Member States, upon request, in the organization of their national review and appraisal exercises;

(b) Organizing regional review meetings;

(c) Assisting Member States, upon request, in following up on analysis resulting from the regional reviews;

(d) Using an inclusive and coordinated approach in relation to the participation of civil society in the planning and evaluation processes of the review and appraisal exercise;

(e) Promoting networking and the sharing of information and experiences;

(f) Providing an analysis of the main findings, identifying key priority action areas and good practices and suggesting policy responses by 2022;

(g) Assisting and providing advice to Governments, upon their request, within existing resources, in the gathering, synthesis and analysis of information, as well as in the presentation of the findings of national reviews and appraisals;

8. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to support Member States in their national review and appraisal efforts by providing, upon their request, technical assistance for capacity-building;

9. *Encourages* Member States and United Nations organizations, where appropriate, to provide support to the regional commissions in facilitating the review and appraisal process and in organizing regional meetings to review national review and appraisal results in 2022;

10. *Invites* Member States and the United Nations system, including the agencies, funds and programmes of the system, to take concrete measures to mainstream ageing issues, including the views of older persons, into their own programming and existing United Nations mandates;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its sixtieth session, in 2022, a report, including an analysis of the preliminary findings of the fourth review and appraisal exercise, together with an identification of prevalent and emerging issues and related policy options;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its sixty-first session, in 2023, a report, including the conclusions of the fourth review and appraisal exercise, together with the identification of prevalent and emerging issues and related policy options.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-eighth session;¹
- (b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

- (a) Priority theme: Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme "Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all"

- (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
 - (i) Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond;²
 - (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
 - (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2020, Supplement No. 6 (E/2020/26).*

² General Assembly resolution 68/3.

- (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes

Report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving youth

- (c) Emerging issues (to be determined).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on emerging issues

4. Programme questions and other matters:

- (a) Proposed programme plan for 2022;

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme plan for 2022

- (b) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

5. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session.

C. Decision calling for action by the Council

3. Pursuant to the following decision, adopted by the Commission, the Economic and Social Council is requested to confirm the nomination of one candidate to the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

Decision 58/101

Nomination of a member of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

4. The Commission decided to nominate Godwin Rapando Murunga for a four-year term beginning after confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and on a date no sooner than on 1 July 2020 and expiring on 30 June 2024.

Chapter II

Organizational matters: priority theme for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development

Action taken by the Commission

1. At the 11th meeting, on 19 February 2020, under agenda item 2, the Commission agreed to adopt the priority theme for its fifty-ninth session “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”.

Chapter III

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 11th meetings, from 10 to 13 and on 17 and 19 February 2020. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development ([E/CN.5/2020/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness ([E/CN.5/2020/3](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 ([E/CN.5/2020/4](#));

(d) Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: Twenty-five years of the World Summit for Social Development: addressing emerging societal challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([E/CN.5/2020/5](#));

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of a member of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development ([E/CN.5/2020/6](#));

(f) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council ([E/CN.5/2020/NGO/1-61](#)).

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 February, the Commission began its consideration of agenda item 3 and heard an introductory statement by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on the agenda item as a whole.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by civil society and youth representatives.

4. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs introduced the documentation under agenda item 3 as a whole.

Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 as a whole

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

5. At the 11th meeting, on 19 February, the observer for Guyana¹ (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" ([E/CN.5/2020/L.4](#)).

6. At the same meeting, Turkey joined as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution.

Action on operative paragraph 18 of [E/CN.5/2020/L.4](#)

7. At the 11th meeting, the Chair drew the attention of the Commission to a request for a recorded vote on operative paragraph 18 of draft resolution [E/CN.5/2020/L.4](#).

8. At the same meeting, before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa and Côte d'Ivoire; statements in explanation of vote

¹ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

were made by the representatives of Portugal (on behalf of the European Union) and the United States of America.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Commission voted to retain operative paragraph 18 of the draft resolution, by a recorded vote of 36 to 1, with 1 abstention.

In favour: Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chad, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, India, Iraq, Japan, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland and Ukraine

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Israel

Action on draft resolution [E/CN.5/2020/L.4](#), as a whole

10. At its 11th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution [E/CN.5/2020/L.4](#) and recommended it to the Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution I).

11. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Portugal (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine), as well as the observer for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

A. Priority theme: affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness

12. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (a) at its 2nd to 11th meetings, from 10 to 13 and on 17 and 19 February, during which it held a general discussion of item 3 (a) with agenda item 3 (b) (Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups) at its 2nd 5th, and 7th to 10th meetings, from 10 to 13 and on 17 February 2020.

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 February, the Commission began its general discussion of agenda items 3 (a) and 3 (b) and heard statements by the representatives of Haiti (also on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Ghana, Peru, Ukraine and Belarus, as well as by the observers for Croatia (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine), Guyana (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Thailand (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Angola (on behalf of the African States), Finland and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

14. At its 5th meeting, on 11 February, the Commission resumed its general discussion of the agenda items 3 (a) and 3 (b) and heard statements by the representatives of Turkmenistan, Brazil, the Sudan, Switzerland, Qatar, Paraguay, Malawi, South Africa, France and Austria, as well as by the observers for Honduras (also on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older Persons), Thailand, the Philippines, Mongolia, Botswana, Canada, Germany, the Dominican Republic, Azerbaijan, Hungary, Denmark, Kenya, Indonesia, Nigeria and Slovenia.

15. At its 7th meeting, on 12 February, the Commission resumed its general discussion of the items and heard statements by the representatives of China, Bulgaria and Argentina, as well as by the observers for the Netherlands, Maldives, Algeria, Luxembourg, Lebanon and Mexico.

16. At its 8th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of the items and heard statements by the representatives of Colombia, Senegal, the United States of America, Iraq, Bangladesh, Japan and Panama, as well as by the observers for Poland, Uruguay, Afghanistan, Italy, Egypt, Turkey, Viet Nam, Saudi Arabia, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Cuba, Namibia, Nepal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Myanmar, Ecuador, Pakistan, Zambia and Sweden.

17. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council: Doha International Family Institute, the International Movement ATD Fourth World and Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University.

18. At its 9th meeting, on 17 February, the Commission resumed its general discussion of the items and heard statements by the representatives of India, El Salvador, the Republic of Korea, Guatemala, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire and the Russian Federation, as well as by the observers for Zimbabwe, Armenia, Monaco, Oman, Chile, Spain, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ethiopia, Cabo Verde, Cameroon and Bhutan.

19. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Holy See.

20. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Labour Organization, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

21. Also at the 9th meeting, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements: The Consortium for Street Children; International Council on Social Welfare; New Future Foundation, Inc.; Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Loreto Generalate; World Youth Alliance; and UNANIMA International.

22. At its 10th meeting, on 17 February, the Commission continued and concluded its general discussion of agenda items 3 (a) and 3 (b) and heard a statement by the observer for Djibouti.

23. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

24. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council: Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; FEMM Foundation; Irene Menakaya School Onitsha; VIVAT International; Kosmos Associates; C-Fam; Institute of International Social Development; Voice of Specially Abled People, Inc.; Concepts of Truth; Fraternité Notre Dame; Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; and World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP).

Panel discussion

25. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 February, the Commission held a high-level panel discussion on the priority theme, “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”, under agenda item 3 (a), moderated by the Chair of the Institute of Global Homelessness, Louise Casey. Following the keynote addresses by the former President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, and the Executive Director of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Maimunah Mohd Sharif, who sent the Commission a video message, the Commission heard presentations by the following panellists: Minister for Social Affairs and Health of Finland, Aino-Kaisa Pekonen; Associate Professor at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania, and Vice-President of the Committee on Economic, Social and

Cultural Rights, Laura-Maria Crăciunean-Tatu; Professor, and Dana and Andrew Stone Chair of Social Policy at the University of Pennsylvania, and former Director of Research at the National Center on Homelessness among Veterans at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Dennis Culhane; Housing Policy Analyst, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Marissa Plouin; Professor in the Department of Social Sciences and Research and Chair of the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Law at Walter Sisulu University in South Africa, Emeka Obioha; and Executive Director of UNANIMA International, and Co-Chair of the NGO Working Group to End Homelessness, Jean Quinn. During the ensuing interactive discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Morocco and Senegal, as well as by the observer for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The observer of the European Union also made comments and posed a question. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council also participated in the discussion: International Longevity Centre Global Alliance, New Future Foundation, Inc., Loretto Community, and International Movement ATD Fourth World.

Multi-stakeholder forum on the priority theme

26. At its 6th meeting, on 12 February, the Commission held a multi-stakeholder forum on the priority theme: sharing solutions, under agenda items 3 (a) and 3 (b), moderated by Chief Executive Officer of DePaul International and founder of the Institute of Global Homelessness at DePaul University, Mark McGreevy. Following the keynote address by the Vice-Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion of Costa Rica, Francisco Delgado, the Commission heard presentations by the following panellists: Executive Secretary for International Affairs of the São Paulo Municipality, Luiz Alvaro Salles Aguiar de Menezes; Founder and Executive Director of Pathways to Housing, and faculty member of the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center, Sam Tsemberis; author of *Pursuit of Happiness*, Chris Gardner; Chief Executive Officer of Funders Together to End Homelessness, Amanda Misiko Andere; and author of *Facing Homelessness*, a personal memoir of homelessness and recovery, James Abro. During the ensuing interactive discussion, statements were made by the representative of France, as well as by the observer for Denmark. At the same meeting, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council also participated in the discussion: Transdiaspora Network; Red Dot Foundation; New Future Foundation, Inc.; Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Loreto Generalate; and Zomi Innkuan USA.

Interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme

27. At its 7th meeting on 12 February, the Commission held an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme under agenda items 3 (a) and (b), moderated by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Chair (Côte d'Ivoire) made a statement, and presentations were made by the following panellists: Director of the Social Development Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Srinivas Tata; Head of the Social Policy Unit of the Social Protection Department at the International Labour Organization, Christina Behrendt; Chief of the New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Marco Toscano-Rivalta; and Programme Management Officer at the New York Office of UN-Habitat, Francesca De Ferrari. During the ensuing interactive discussion, statements were made by the observers for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Finland. The observer for the European Union also made comments and posed a question. The representatives of the following non-governmental

organizations in consultative status with the Council also participated in the discussion: Association of Christian Counsellors of Nigeria, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Loreto Generalate, and New Future Foundation, Inc..

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (a)

28. At its 11th meeting, on 19 February, the Commission adopted a draft resolution entitled “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness” (E/CN.5/2020/L.5), submitted by the Chair (Côte d’Ivoire) on the basis of informal consultations, and recommended it to the Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution II).

29. After the adoption, statements were made by the representative of the United States of America, as well as by the observer for the Holy See.

B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

30. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (b) at its 2nd and 5th to 10th meetings, from 10 to 13 and on 17 February, and held a general discussion of the item with agenda item 3 (a) (Priority theme: affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness) at its 2nd, 5th, and 7th to 10th meetings, from 10 to 13 and on 17 February. (For a discussion of the general discussion of the items, see chap. III.A, paras. 12–24.)

Multi-stakeholder forum on the priority theme

31. At its 6th meeting, on 12 February, the Commission held a multi-stakeholder forum on the priority theme under the item with agenda item 3 (a). (For a discussion of the multi-stakeholder forum under the items, see chap. III.A, para.26).

Interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme

32. At its 7th meeting on 12 February, the Commission held an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme under the item with agenda item 3 (a). (For a discussion of the interactive dialogue under the items, see chap. III.A, para. 27).

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)

33. At its 11th meeting, on 19 February, the Commission adopted a draft resolution entitled “Modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002” (E/CN.5/2020/L.3), submitted by the Vice-Chair (Austria) on the basis of informal consultations, and recommended it to the Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution III).

C. Emerging issues: twenty-five years of the World Summit for Social Development: addressing emerging societal challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Ministerial Forum

34. At its 4th meeting, on 11 February, the Commission held a ministerial forum on social protection under agenda item 3 (c), moderated by the Chair of the Institute of Global Homelessness, Louise Casey. The Commission heard a video message by the President of the General Assembly. Following the keynote address made by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Commission heard presentations by the following panellists: Minister for Special Development Initiatives of Ghana, Hawa Komsoon; Minister for Development and Social Inclusion of Peru, Ariela Luna Florez; Minister for Social Affairs and Health of Finland, Aino-Kaisa Pekonen; Minister for Social Policy of Ukraine, Yulia Sokolovska; and Assistant Undersecretary for Social Affairs of the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs of Qatar, Ghanem Mubarak Al Kuwari. During the ensuing interactive discussion, statements were made by the representative of Switzerland, as well as by the observers for Nigeria, Chile and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The observer for the European Union also made comments and posed a question. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council also participated in the dialogue: Soroptimist International, New Future Foundation, Inc., Baha'i International Community and International Association of Schools of Social Work.

Chapter IV

Programme questions and other matters

1. The Commission considered agenda items 4 (a) and (b) at its 9th meeting, on 17 February 2020.

A. Proposed programme plan for 2021

2. At the 9th meeting, on 17 February, the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

B. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

3. At the 9th meeting, on 17 February, the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

Nomination of a member of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

4. At its 9th meeting, on 17 February, the Commission decided to nominate Godwin Rapando Murunga for a four-year term beginning after confirmation by the Council and on a date no sooner than on 1 July 2020 and expiring on 30 June 2024 (see chap. I.C, decision 58/101).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 11th meeting, on 19 February 2020. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission ([E/CN.5/2020/L.1](#)).
2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-ninth session, which would be updated to reflect the oral decision agreed on by the Commission on the priority theme for its fifty-ninth session “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all” (see chap. I. B, draft decision).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session

1. At the 11th meeting, on 19 February 2020, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the Commission (Qatar), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session, as contained in document [E/CN.5/2020/L.2](#).
2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Secretariat, in consultation with the Rapporteur, with its finalization.

Chapter VII

Organization of the session

A. Duration and closing of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its fifty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters on 21 February 2019 and from 10 to 19 February 2020. The Commission held 11 meetings (1st to 11th).
2. At its 11th meeting, on 19 February 2020, the President of the Economic and Social Council made a closing statement. The Chair (Côte d'Ivoire) also made a closing statement and declared closed the fifty-eighth session of the Commission.

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of 38 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, non-member States and intergovernmental organizations, and representatives of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document [E/CN.5/2020/INF/1](#).

C. Election of officers

4. In its decision 2002/210, the Council decided that, immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau.
5. At its 1st meeting, on 21 February 2019, the Commission postponed the election of the members of the Bureau from African States, Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States to a later date, on the understanding that, upon nomination by their respective groups, candidates would be allowed to participate in the meetings of the Bureau held to prepare for the fifty-eighth session.
6. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 February 2020, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo (Côte d'Ivoire) as Chair of its fifty-eighth session and Sharifa Yousef Alnesf (Qatar), Caroline Bartel (Austria) and Nikola Nenov (Bulgaria) as Vice-Chairs.
7. At the same meeting, the Commission further postponed the election of the member of the Bureau from Latin American and Caribbean States.
8. Also at the same meeting, the Commission designated Ms. Alnesf as Rapporteur.
9. The Bureau was thus composed as follows:

Chair:

Gbolié Désiré Wulfran Ipo (Côte d'Ivoire)

Vice-Chairs:

Sharifa Yousef Alnesf (Qatar) (Rapporteur)
Caroline Bartel (Austria)
Nikola Nenov (Bulgaria)

D. Agenda and organization of work

10. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 February 2020, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document [E/CN.5/2020/1](#). The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
 - (a) Priority theme: affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness;
 - (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
 - (i) Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond;
 - (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
 - (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
 - (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;
 - (c) Emerging issues: twenty-five years of the World Summit for Social Development: addressing emerging societal challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. Programme questions and other matters:
 - (a) Proposed programme plan for 2021;
 - (b) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.
5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session.

11. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as set out in annex I to document [E/CN.5/2020/1](#).

E. Documentation

12. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-eighth session is available on the website of the Commission.