



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
6 October 2020

Original: English

2021 session

25 July 2020–22 July 2021

Organizational session

Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 14 September 2020, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Akram. (Pakistan)
later: Mr. Kelapile (Vice-President). (Botswana)

Contents

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Agenda item 14: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Agenda item 15: Regional cooperation

Agenda item 16: Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Agenda item 5: High-level segment

(a) Ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

(b) High-level policy dialogue on future trends and scenarios and the long-term impact of current trends on the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

This record is subject to correction.

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

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

20-11837 (E)



Please recycle



(c) Development Cooperation Forum

Agenda item 6: High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

Other matters

Agenda item 4: Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/2021/1)

1. **The President**, informing the Council of the agreement reached by the Bureau with regard to the division of responsibilities for the 2021 session, said that he himself would conduct the high-level segment, the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council, the forum on financing for development follow-up, the Development Cooperation Forum, the special meeting on international cooperation in tax matters and joint meetings, and other forums and special meetings that might be convened. Mr. Kyslytsya (Ukraine), Vice-President, would conduct the operational activities for development segment. Ms. Baeriswyl (Switzerland), Vice-President, would conduct the humanitarian affairs segment, to be held in Geneva. The integration segment would be the responsibility of the Vice-President to be elected from among the Latin American and Caribbean States. Mr. Kelapile (Botswana), Vice-President, would conduct the management meetings, including elections to fill vacancies in the Council's subsidiary and related bodies.

2. He then invited the Council to take note of the resolutions and decisions adopted through silence procedures for the period from 3 April to 31 August 2020, pursuant to Council decision 2020/205 on the procedure for taking decisions during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The list of the relevant resolutions and decisions was contained in document E/2021/CRP.1.

3. *The Council, pursuant to its decision 2020/205, took note of resolutions 2020/3 to 2020/23 and 2021/1, and decisions 2020/201 C to 2020/201 E, 2020/206 to 2020/233, 2021/200 A and 2021/202 to 2021/204, as listed in document E/2021/CRP.1.*

4. He recalled that the forum on financing for development follow-up had also adopted its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations pursuant to Council decision 2020/205. They were contained in chapter III of the report of the forum, issued as document E/FFDF/2020/3.

Agenda item 14: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (E/2021/L.5)

Draft resolution E/2021/L.5: Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

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

6. **Ms. McGuire** (Observer for Grenada), introducing the draft decision in her capacity as the Chair of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, said that she wished to resubmit the text of the draft resolution that had been put forward at the previous session but on which no action could be taken at that time, owing to the restrictions on convening in-person meetings.

7. The Non-Self-Governing Territories faced special challenges that had been exacerbated by the multifaceted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their fragile economies. More than ever, the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, on a case-by-case basis, played a central role in helping the Non-Self-Governing Territories to meet such challenges.

8. She noted with satisfaction the Council's thematic focus for its current session and the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development, as decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 74/298: "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

9. In the light of the threats to sustainable development caused by the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the Non-Self-Governing Territories, she wished to echo the requests of the General Assembly and the Council to the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations, namely to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the Territories

on a case-by-case basis and within the framework of their respective mandates.

10. The Special Committee on Decolonization reiterated its unequivocal commitment to the implementation of its mandate, in line with the Charter of the United Nations and all relevant resolutions, and to intensify its engagement with the work of the Council and the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations. She invited all members of the Council to support the draft resolution.

11. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) said that India had become a sponsor of the draft resolution. She then noted that Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Kenya and Malawi also wished to become sponsors.

12. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that the draft resolution before the Council was similar to those considered by the Council since 2006 and identical to the one considered at the Council's 2019 session. The United States would therefore maintain its past practice and abstain from voting. While his delegation agreed in principle that United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies could provide useful support to territories that were not members of the United Nations, it was the Administering Power that had the sovereign responsibility to determine the manner in which its Self-Governing Territories could participate in the United Nations system. The domestic laws and policies of the Administering Power of the Territories determined whether such support was allowed. According to the Constitution of the United States, the Federal Government had the sole authority for the conduct of foreign relations, including the foreign relations of territories of the United States. As the language in the draft resolution was inconsistent with the constitutional arrangements of the United States, his delegation could not support it.

13. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/2021/L.5.*

In favour:

Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, China, Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uruguay.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States of America.

14. *Draft resolution E/2021/L.5 was adopted by 32 votes to none, with 21 abstentions.*

15. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation), speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, said that his country had always been actively involved in the work of the Council and of the Special Committee on Decolonization. The Russian Federation consistently advocated for all peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to be able to fully exercise their rights to self-determination, independence and development. However, the purely political matters contained in the draft resolution were a distraction from the Council's main mandate of coordinating socioeconomic issues. The Russian Federation had therefore abstained from the vote.

Agenda item 15: Regional cooperation (E/2020/12, annex)

Draft resolution contained in the annex to document E/2020/12: New strategic vision of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

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

17. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that his delegation applauded the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for its response to the Secretary-General's call to become more nimble, efficient and effective as an organization. Furthermore, it welcomed the prioritization by ESCWA of its tasks and corresponding cost offsets to ensure a cost-neutral 2021 programme of work. Moving forward, prompt and clear statements should be provided regarding any programme budget implications and proposed changes.

18. *The draft resolution contained in the annex to document E/2020/12 was adopted.*

19. **Mr. Kimura** (Japan) said that his delegation first wished to express its deepest condolences to the families of the victims, and to the people and Government of Lebanon, following the horrific explosion in Beirut on 4 August 2020. ESCWA was expected to play a significant role in addressing the impact of the multiple overlapping shocks in Lebanon because of the catastrophe, and in assisting regional efforts to build back better in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

20. Japan had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, which endorsed a new strategy aimed at better supporting Member States in the Arab region in their efforts to deliver on their development visions and to implement the 2030 Agenda. While noting that the Secretariat had withdrawn the oral statement of programme budget implications circulated on 20 March 2020, his delegation was concerned by the lack of transparency in the negotiating process, which should not set a precedent. An open and transparent process of consultations would be the basis for any future negotiations.

21. **Ms. Han** Woo Jung (Republic of Korea) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution in the hopes that it would help ESCWA to assist Member States more effectively in their sustainable development efforts. However, she also wished to express her delegation's concerns over the lack of transparency in connection with the sudden withdrawal of the statement on programme budget implications, which had initially been assessed to amount to \$250,000, and to stress the importance of greater accountability and transparency in the work of the Council moving forward.

Agenda item 16: Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan
([E/2021/L.6](#) and [E/2021/L.7](#))

Draft resolution [E/2021/L.6](#): Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Draft resolution [E/2021/L.7](#): Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

22. **The President** said the draft resolutions had no programme budget implications.

23. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Turkey had joined the sponsors of the draft resolutions.

24. **Ms. Persaud** (Observer for Guyana), introducing draft resolution [E/2021/L.6](#) on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that grave concerns were expressed in the draft resolution regarding the detrimental economic and social repercussions of the prolonged Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territory, including East Jerusalem, with a particular emphasis on the dire situation in the Gaza Strip. Violations of their economic

and social rights included the rights to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement.

25. The occupying Power was called upon in the draft resolution, inter alia, to cease its construction of settlements; to cease its construction of the separation wall and to comply with the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice in that regard; to cease its destruction of homes and properties; and to cease its exploitation of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan, in keeping with the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources. Deep concern was also expressed in the draft resolution regarding the rising incidences of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement by Israeli settlers against Palestinians, for which accountability was necessary. Furthermore, the draft resolution highlighted the situation of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, a plight which required urgent attention in accordance with international law.

26. Appreciation was expressed in the draft resolution for the economic and humanitarian assistance being provided to the Palestinian people and the need for continued assistance commensurate with the increased socioeconomic and humanitarian needs. All States and international organizations were encouraged to continue to actively pursue policies that ensured respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

27. The draft resolution underscored the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks. Its adoption would contribute to alleviating the economic and social hardships of the Palestinian and Syrian civilian populations living under Israel's foreign occupation and ultimately contribute to international efforts to bring an end to that injustice and achieve peace, in line with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law.

28. Turning to draft resolution [E/2021/L.7](#), she said that it addressed the obstacles and challenges faced by Palestinian women and girls, notably under occupation, and contained a call for continued international support for them with the aim of ensuring respect for their rights and providing them with the necessary protection and assistance.

29. Limited but significant additions had been made to the draft resolution. In particular, note was taken of the importance of giving high priority to the swift adoption

of the Family Protection Law to ensure that women and girls were protected from gender-based violence, including domestic violence. It also welcomed the adoption by the Palestinian Government of a national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and the adoption of initiatives at the legislative, administrative and security levels to advance women's rights, notably in relation to family law and combating violence against women.

30. The draft resolution reaffirmed the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, with an emphasis on women's equal participation and their involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

31. In addition, the draft resolution reaffirmed that the Israeli occupation remained a major obstacle for Palestinian women and girls with regard to the fulfilment of their rights and their advancement. Israel, the occupying Power, was therefore called upon to immediately cease all measures contrary to international law and all discriminatory legislation, policies and actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that violated the human rights of the Palestinian people.

32. In the draft resolution the international community was urged to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls, and to intensify measures to improve the difficult conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families, including those living under Israeli occupation and as Palestine refugees, and to continue to provide them with urgently needed assistance.

33. Lastly, in the draft resolution the parties were called upon to comply fully with their obligations, including as States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It reaffirmed the obligations of States and all parties to armed conflict to comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law and stressed the need to ensure accountability and end impunity. Moreover, draft resolution E/2021/L.7 also stressed the need for Palestine to fully implement its obligations under the instruments to which it had acceded in order to protect the rights of women and girls.

34. **Mr. Bamya** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that Palestine was a unique place located at the

crossroad of three continents and was blessed by its weather and fertile land. However, that uniqueness and location had heavily influenced its history and the history of its people. Palestine was potentially rich and its people were educated and talented, with a true entrepreneurial spirit and a proven steadfastness. Palestine had the human and natural resources it needed for tourism, agriculture, industry and technology. It could be a high-technology country, the number one destination in the world, a hub for high quality and ecologically friendly products. The nation had an unbelievable potential that, if unleashed by freedom and independence, would change the lives of millions of Palestinians. However, it was being deprived of the ability to exploit those resources and the dire economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people were a direct result of the occupation.

35. Since 1967, Israel, by design, had confined Palestinians in the areas where they already lived and had expanded its settlements in the most fertile and holy parts of Palestinian land, with the aim of annexing the maximum amount of Palestinian land with the minimum number of Palestinians. Sixty per cent of the land in the occupied West Bank was virtually off-limits to Palestinians, including the Jordan Valley, a reservoir rich in water and resources and the gateway to the world. East Jerusalem, the natural political, economic, cultural and touristic heart of Palestine, had been unlawfully annexed and severed from its Palestinian environment. The Gaza Strip had been under a blockade for 13 years. It was a miracle that, despite the fragmentation of Palestinian land, the oppression of its people and the theft of its resources, the Palestinian people, with international support and national resilience, were still able to cope. Palestinian youth were systematically targeted, suffered from mass arbitrary imprisonment, faced high unemployment rates and had been largely cut off from the rest of the world. That should have meant a lost generation, yet the invention and connectivity they had displayed in the most difficult conditions was nothing short of impressive.

36. Draft resolution E/2021/L.6 reasserted the Palestinian people's economic and social rights in the face of persistent violations that undermined their ability to fulfil any of the Sustainable Development Goals and their most basic and fundamental rights. The Palestinian people were grateful for the international community's political, economic and social support to Palestine in order to precipitate the day where they could unleash their true potential, changing not only their reality but the region and the world.

37. The Council would also be adopting a draft resolution on Palestinian women, who were among the

most vulnerable to the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation. Draft resolution [E/2021/L.7](#) focused on what needed to be done by Israel, the occupying Power, by the State of Palestine and by the international community in order to transform the current reality for Palestinian women. While the occupation remained the main obstacle to the fulfilment of their rights, the State of Palestine also acknowledged its own obligations, including as a State party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and as a country committed to the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#). That included aligning its national legislation and plans with its international obligations, notably through the swift adoption of the Family Protection Law. That approach did not stem from some foreign diktat but from the history and national vision of Palestine as encapsulated in its Declaration of Independence. The Palestinian women's movement had been established in the late nineteenth century and almost immediately had been forced to conduct a parallel struggle against the denial of Palestinian national rights and in favour of Palestinian women's rights. One of the greatest honours of his own life was to be the son of one of the most committed representatives and passionate advocates of the Palestinian women's movement.

38. **Mr. Nayyal** (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) said that the note by the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan ([A/75/86-E/2020/62](#)) detailed the numerous ways in which the long-standing Israeli occupation had affected the livelihoods and future of civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan. In particular, it was stated that an Israeli media outlet had reported on a government plan to expand settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan and to increase the settler population in the area to 250,000 by 2048, and that Israel had issued demolition orders and initiated a process aimed at zoning some of the rare land usable for the expansion of Syrian villages as a national park. The Syrian Arab Republic denounced those initiatives in the strongest terms possible; instead of extending the occupation to 2048, Israel, the occupying Power ought to comply with its obligations under international resolutions by bringing an end to the occupation and working towards a just and comprehensive peace.

39. It was also a matter of concern that the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan faced

significant discriminatory building restrictions imposed by Israel, which led to strained infrastructure and overcrowded conditions. Those problems had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the Israeli occupation authorities were imposing new curricula on schools in the occupied Syrian Golan, in an endeavour to deprive young people of their Syrian identity. The occupation authorities had also imposed a new land registration system that carried a risk for most Syrians, whose land was registered under the old system and could therefore be vulnerable to confiscation.

40. His delegation urged all Member States to vote in favour of draft resolution [E/2021/L.6](#) in order to curb the discriminatory practices of Israel, the occupying Power, and uphold international law.

41. **Ms. Fisher-Tsin** (Observer for Israel) said that draft resolution [E/2021/L.6](#) was deeply flawed in its content. Year after year, the resolution and report upon which it was based had been picked apart for their unsupported accusations, deliberate lack of content and shameless lack of balance. To add insult to injury, procedure was now being ignored for political ends. The purpose of the current meeting was to take action on draft resolutions submitted during the Council's previous session. However, the draft resolution had not been submitted during the 2020 session, which had now concluded. In accordance with the rules of procedure, there was no legal basis to consider the draft. The authors of the current draft had decided not to submit it at the previous session, presumably because it contained nothing new and only politicized content.

42. The authors of draft resolution [E/2021/L.6](#) also seemed oblivious to the global COVID pandemic, which was no oversight on their part. Statements of United Nations officials and press releases from United Nations had detailed the strong positive cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in addressing the pandemic. As usual, however, when facts did not support a narrative, they were conveniently omitted. The facts were that the Government of Israel had strengthened its cooperation with the United Nations and the Palestinian Authority in order to mitigate the disastrous effects of COVID-19. Israel had called upon the international community to direct international aid to the Palestinian Authority and had organized a meeting in which multiple stakeholders had discussed how to better coordinate national and international efforts to aid the Gaza Strip. On the ground, ongoing cooperation had yielded many results, such as joint consultations and deliberations between expert level officials, training and guidance for Palestinian medical teams and the delivery of COVID-19 related aid. Israel had also delivered hundreds of testing and protection kits to the Gaza Strip.

At the Security Council briefing held on 30 March 2020, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority had praised the far-reaching measures that both Israel and the Palestinian Authority had taken to try to contain the spread of COVID-19.

43. Over the past six months world leaders and the senior United Nations leadership had stressed that it was no time for business as usual. She therefore urged the members of the Council to support those calls and to vote against the draft resolution.

44. **Ms. Goebel** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that while the European Union would continue to support draft resolution [E/2021/L.6](#), the use of the term “Palestine” in the draft resolution could not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and was without prejudice to the individual positions of European Union member States on that issue, and hence on the question of the validity of accession to the conventions and treaties mentioned therein. Furthermore, the European Union had not expressed a legal opinion with regard to the term “forced displacement” or certain legal terms used in the draft resolution and considered that “Palestinian Government” referred to the Palestinian Authority.

45. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that his delegation was once again disappointed by the submission of a one-sided and biased draft resolution that was virtually identical to those previously considered by the Council. Neither draft resolution [E/2021/L.6](#) nor the accompanying report ([E/2020/12](#)) did anything to advance the aspirations of the Palestinians and Israelis for a more secure, peaceful and prosperous future, as both were unbalanced and unfairly single out Israel in a forum that was not intended to be politicized. The only realistic path to end the conflict was through negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace.

46. There was no place for such biased and counterproductive resolutions and reports and, rather than perpetuating them, the international community should rally around productive and tangible efforts that improved the situation on the ground. For example, the historic recent Abraham Accords Peace Agreement was the most significant step towards peace in the Middle East in over 25 years. The United Arab Emirates was the first Arab State to have recognized Israel since the signature of the Treaty of Peace between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on

26 October 1994; and, only the previous week, the Kingdom of Bahrain had also established full diplomatic relations with Israel. Under the Accords, the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain had committed to the exchange of embassies and ambassadors and had begun cooperation in a broad range of fields, including education, health care, trade and security. Expanded business and financial ties between those thriving economies would accelerate growth and economic opportunity across the Middle East. The deal provided a foundation for further advances towards regional peace in the future. The Accords would allow further exploration of the United States Vision for Peace, which laid out the path for a comprehensive, fair, realistic and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians and in the region.

47. The United States stood ready to help promote economic security and would work with all parties to improve conditions and promote the cause of peace. As the current draft resolution did nothing to improve the situation, his delegation had no choice but to vote against it.

48. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution [E/2021/L.6](#).*

In favour:

Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, China, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uruguay.

Against:

Australia, Canada, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Brazil, Malawi, Togo, Ukraine.

49. *Draft resolution [E/2021/L.6](#) was adopted by 47 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions.*

50. **Ms. Fisher-Tsin** (Observer for Israel) said that the procedural flaws she had outlined in the consideration of draft resolution [E/2021/L.6](#) also applied to the consideration of draft resolution [E/2021/L.7](#). Any violation of the procedure, especially for narrow political ends, created a worrying precedent.

51. At a time of great change and uncertainty, when the international community's full attention should be

focused on the fight against COVID-19, the Council was once again discussing a draft resolution that presented a biased narrative of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While Palestinian women faced many challenges, including gender-based violence and discrimination, the draft resolution placed the blame for such problems entirely on Israel. The true motivations for the draft resolution were therefore clearly political and no real attempt was being made to solve the problems of Palestinian women. The few changes made to the text reflected the fact that domestic social issues and policies, especially with regard to the situation of women, should be the focus of the debate. If Palestinians genuinely wished to improve the situation of Palestinian women, they should focus on their efforts at the domestic level rather than presenting a one-sided draft resolution to the United Nations. Indeed, there was no other Council resolution dedicated to a specific group of women. Voting against the draft resolution would send a strong message to Palestinian leaders to take responsibility for the challenges that their people faced.

52. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that his country wished to underscore its long-standing concerns about the draft resolution presented again at the current session and its continued opposition to it. The Council's insistence on including political elements and one-sided condemnations that detracted from the real challenges at hand was troubling. Instead, the Council needed to refocus its energy on shared goals. The politicization of issues only called into question the impartiality of the assistance that so many provided to assist Palestinian women.

53. The United States remained concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza, including reports that Hamas authorities had undertaken efforts to limit women's ability to appear in public and to move freely. It was also concerned that the punishment of women for so-called "ethical" crimes continued unchecked.

54. The United States would continue to pursue the path that President Trump had set out in January 2020 when presenting the United States Vision for Peace between Israel and the Palestinians. The only realistic path to end the conflict was through negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace. Politicized efforts in international and multilateral forums would do nothing to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The United States would continue to advance efforts to create a brighter and more prosperous future for all.

55. **Mr. de Souza Monteiro** (Brazil) said that he wished to express his country's deep concerns about the dire social and economic conditions in Palestine that

disproportionately affected women and girls, especially in the Gaza Strip. Brazil was in favour of urgent measures to ensure full respect for the human rights of all women and girls in Palestine and remained firmly committed to the rights and guarantees provided for in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

56. Draft resolution [E/2021/L.7](#) highlighted, inter alia, the central role of women in achieving, maintaining and promoting international peace and security, especially in the Middle East. However, it contained substantive elements that made the text imbalanced by selectively addressing the situation of Palestinian women and attributing solely to Israel responsibility for violations of the human rights of women in Palestine, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. By singling out Israel, the draft resolution did not contribute to peace and mutual understanding in the region. Brazil would therefore abstain from the vote and hoped to see a more constructive and balanced resolution in the future.

57. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution [E/2021/L.7](#).*

In favour:

Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, China, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uruguay.

Against:

Australia, Canada, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Brazil, Germany, Jamaica, Montenegro, Netherlands, Switzerland, Togo, Ukraine.

58. *Draft resolution [E/2021/L.7](#) was adopted by 43 votes to 3, with 8 abstentions.*

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ([E/2021/L.4](#))

Draft decision [E/2021/L.4](#): Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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

60. **Mr. Ligoya** (Malawi), introducing draft decision [E/2021/L.4](#), said that his country had decided to apply for membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and that the draft decision was a part of that process. The draft was based on the previous decisions of the Council dealing with such applications. In accordance with the draft decision, the Council would recommend that the General Assembly, at its seventy-fifth session, decide on the question of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee from 106 to 107 States with a view to Malawi becoming a member.

61. *Draft decision [E/2021/L.4](#) was adopted.*

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

62. **The President**, turning to the question of seating arrangements for delegations, proposed that, as in the past, lots should be drawn to determine which delegation would occupy the first seat.

63. *The delegation of Ukraine was selected by the drawing of lots to take the first seat.*

Agenda item 5: High-level segment

- (a) **Ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council**
- (b) **High-level policy dialogue on future trends and scenarios and the long-term impact of current trends on the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- (c) **Development Cooperation Forum**

Agenda item 6: High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council

Draft decision [E/2021/L.8](#) on the reconsideration of the draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council

64. **Ms. Persaud** (Observer for Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that Council members should be afforded an opportunity to adopt the draft prepared by the co-facilitators at the previous session. In accordance with the draft decision the Council would decide, on an exceptional basis, to hold a meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and of the Economic and

Social Council as early as possible during the 2021 session of the Council, to reconsider the draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council. The Group would greatly appreciate the guidance of the President on the next steps needed to take the matter forward expeditiously.

65. **Ms. Goebel** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that they were strongly opposed to the proposal of the Group of 77 and China to reconvene the 2020 high-level political forum in order to resume negotiations on the draft ministerial declaration. The 2020 session of the Council had concluded on 22 July 2020 with an understanding that no agreement had been reached on that document. Furthermore, there had been no decision taken to defer consideration of the draft ministerial declaration to the current session and the European Union and its member States would not have agreed to such a decision. General Assembly resolutions [67/290](#) and [70/299](#) made it clear that there should not be two ministerial declarations in a single session of the Council. As the proposal raised a number of procedural and legal questions in that regard, she invited the President to seek an informed legal opinion on the matter.

66. While the lack of a legal basis should be sufficient to conclude the matter, it should also be noted that the text attached to the letter distributed by the Group of 77 and China was not in fact the one that had been discussed and placed under silence procedure. Furthermore, while the appointed facilitators had worked hard to achieve a consensus, their mandate and work had concluded and there were no new channels to resume discussions on the text. Moreover, experts could not simply reopen discussions at a time of their choosing if agreement had not been reached before the closure of the session. As the opportunity to adopt a ministerial declaration had passed, efforts should be refocused on ensuring a productive and successful current session of the Council and outcome of the high-level political forum in 2021.

67. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that while his delegation was disappointed by the lack of agreement on a ministerial declaration in 2020, the previous session of the Council had already concluded and no provisions had been made for a continued discussion of the issue at the current session. His delegation therefore shared the legal and procedural concerns outlined by the representative of the European Union. Changing the established practice without any legal opinion from the Office of Legal Affairs would be

both unprecedented and inadvisable. Instead of reconsidering a previously rejected version of the draft ministerial declaration, all members of the Council should recommit to ensuring a successful outcome of the high-level political forum in 2021.

68. **Ms. Janson** (Canada) said that the proposal of the Group of 77 and China also raised concerns for her delegation. At the end of its previous session the Council had made a conscious decision to postpone some of its pending business to the current session, but that did not include the 2020 draft ministerial declaration on which no consensus had been reached. While Canada had a strong preference for the adoption of a ministerial declaration every year when the high-level political forum was convened under the auspices of the Council, it cautioned against setting the procedural precedent of bringing forward the previous year's business without an agreement to do so. That would be compounded by attempting to hold rushed negotiations on such an important text. Many delegations had applied maximum flexibility to the negotiations on the 2020 draft ministerial declaration in the hopes that consensus might be reached. The concern was that the flexibility of some delegations might have evaporated now that it was again possible to vote at the Council's meeting. Achieving consensus would thus require a serious negotiating process, which would be very difficult to accommodate at the current session.

69. **Ms. Stern** (Australia) said that, as many delegations had already raised the troubling procedural and legal issues related to the proposal of the Group of 77 and China, she wished to discuss its implications for the Council's working methods. The rules of procedure and parameters for agreement had been very clear in the context of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. It was also clear to all that any breaking of the silence procedure during the negotiating process would mean that no outcome was possible. Within that framework, many delegations had exercised extreme restraint and had operated on the basis of good faith. Changing the rules of the game at such a late stage would call into question the way in which delegations had engaged, in good faith, in the process of negotiations on the draft ministerial declaration. Thus, the only way forward was to focus on the outcome of the of the high-level political forum in 2021.

70. **Mr. Kyslytsya** (Ukraine) said that he agreed with the comments just made by the representatives of the European Union, the United States, Canada and Australia. There was neither the procedural basis nor legal grounds to support the proposal made by the Group of 77 and China, which should be withdrawn.

71. **Mr. Spells** (Observer for the United Kingdom) said that his country was a strong supporter of the Sustainable Development Goals, which provided a valuable framework for collaboration and partnership in building back better while leaving no one behind. The 2020 high-level political forum had been more significant than ever before. For the first time, delegations had come together virtually amid a global pandemic to take stock of progress towards the Goals, reflect on their vital role in the post-COVID-19 recovery and reaffirm the collective commitment to accelerating global progress during the decade of action. COVID-19 had furthered inequality in the world, with the poorest and most vulnerable being the ones most at risk from its impacts. The pandemic had also been a reminder of how interconnected the world was, and how a global challenge required a globally coordinated response. His delegation appreciated the collective efforts that had gone into the draft ministerial declaration that was placed under silence procedure on 17 July 2020. At that time, his delegation could have supported the declaration but, as others had said, it was vital to follow the letter and spirit of previous resolutions, as well as the Council's own rules of procedure. As such, his delegation would support requests for advice from the Office of Legal Affairs but wished to make it clear that it would oppose reopening the text for further consultations.

72. **Ms. Persaud** (Observer for Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group wished to reiterate the need to reopen the matter at the earliest opportunity and had carried out consultations with the relevant legal authorities to that end. In that regard, she was confident of the veracity of the proposed way forward. A flawed process had been followed in the circulation of the draft ministerial declaration during the Council's 2020 session. The draft circulated for adoption was not the version circulated by the facilitators following the conclusion of extensive negotiations. Therefore, the Group was now asking for membership to be given the opportunity to taken action on the draft that had in fact been negotiated.

73. **The President** said that he would undertake consultations with the Office of Legal Affairs and with delegations with a view to finding a way to overcome the current impasse and find an acceptable solution.

Other matters

74. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation wished to draw attention to certain questionable aspects related to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. First of all, general comments were private opinions of

the Committee's experts and could not impose any additional obligations upon States, other than those that had been voluntarily agreed upon by the States themselves. Moreover, it was unacceptable for the recommendations of a treaty body to use contentious terms and concepts that were not supported by most countries. For example, at its sixty-seventh session, the Committee had adopted general comment No. 25 (2020) on science and economic, social and cultural rights, in which States had been urged to eliminate discrimination on the grounds sexual orientation and gender identity and to remove all barriers that affected the "careers" of girls and their participation in professional activities. Such statements were geared towards undermining traditional family values, including the institution of the family, and ran counter to the provisions of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

75. Another questionable recent practice was the issuance by treaty bodies of joint statements that sought to promote an expanded interpretation of States' international obligations. One example was the joint statement on human rights and climate change dated 16 September 2019, which had been issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was inappropriate to link articles 11, 12 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the issue of climate change, which was not referred to therein. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights must respect the division of labour within the United Nations and not encroach on the competencies of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

76. *The meeting was suspended at 12.20 p.m. and resumed at 12.30 p.m.*

77. *Mr. Kelapile (Botswana), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

Agenda item 4: Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (E/2020/9, E/2020/9/Corr.1, E/2020/9/Add.1, E/2020/9/Add.2, E/2020/9/Add.3, E/2020/9/Add.4, E/2020/9/Add.6, E/2020/9/Add.8 and E/2020/100/Add.1)

78. **The President** said that he had received a request from a member of the Council, in accordance with rule 68 of the rules of procedure, to conduct elections by secret ballot to all vacancies on the Commission on

Population and Development, the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

79. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (Nicaragua) asked which State had requested secret ballots to be conducted for those bodies, in all of which the number of candidates was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled.

80. **The President** said that the United States had made the request.

81. *At the invitation of the President, representatives of Australia, Gabon, Kenya, Montenegro and Paraguay acted as tellers for all secret ballots at the current meeting.*

Statistical Commission (E/2020/9 and (E/2020/9/Corr.1)

82. **The President** invited the Council to elect members to the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2021. Since the number of candidates from Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled from those groups, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

83. *Colombia, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Statistical Commission by acclamation.*

84. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from Asia-Pacific States to the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

85. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Samoa	36
Japan	31
China	21
Philippines	19

86. *Having obtained the required majority, Japan and Samoa were elected members of the Statistical Commission.*

Commission on the Status of Women (E/2020/9 and E/2020/9/Corr.1)

87. **The President** invited the Council to elect members to the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's sixty-sixth session in 2021 and expiring at the close of the Commission's sixty-ninth session in 2025. Since the number of candidates from African States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled from those groups, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

88. *Argentina, Austria, the Dominican Republic, Israel, Latvia, Nigeria, Turkey and Zambia were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women by acclamation.*

89. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from Asia-Pacific States to the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's sixty-sixth session in 2021 and expiring at the close of the Commission's sixty-ninth session in 2025.

90. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Afghanistan	39
India	38
China	27

91. *Having obtained the required majority, Afghanistan and India were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2020/9 and E/2020/9/Corr.1)

92. **The President** invited the Council to elect one member to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021. Since the number of candidates from African States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidate proposed.

93. *Angola was elected a member of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice by acclamation.*

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (E/2020/9/Add.2)

94. **The President** invited the Council to elect members to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021. Since the number of candidates from African States, Asia-Pacific States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled from those groups, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

95. *China, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were elected members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting by acclamation.*

96. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from Eastern European States to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

97. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	52
<i>Required majority:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Russian Federation	42
Ukraine	10

98. *Having obtained the required majority, the Russian Federation was elected a member of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.*

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/2020/9/Add.3 and E/2020/9/Add.4)

99. **The President** invited the Council to elect members to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2021. Since the number of candidates from Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States and Latin

American and Caribbean States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled from those groups, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

100. *Mr. Adilov (Azerbaijan), Ms. Crăciunean-Tatu (Romania), Mr. Nonthasoot (Thailand), Ms. Ravenberg (Suriname) and Mr. Yongxiang (China) were elected members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by acclamation.*

101. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from African States to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

102. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Abdel-Moneim (Egypt)	49
Mr. Amarti (Morocco)	37
Ms. Liebenberg (South Africa)	20

103. *Having obtained the required majority, Mr. Abdel-Moneim (Egypt) and Mr. Amarti (Morocco) were elected members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.*

104. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from Western European and other States to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

105. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	53
<i>Required majority:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Mr. Windfuhr (Germany)	38
Mr. Mancisidor (Spain)	34
Mr. Elver (Turkey)	33

106. *Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Mr. Windfuhr (Germany) and Mr. Mancisidor (Spain) were elected members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services (E/2020/9/Add.6)

107. **The President** said that, as Austria, Canada and Italy would resign from the Executive Board with effect from 31 December 2020, Belgium, Germany and Greece had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and other States to assume their seats. He took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed for a term of office that would begin on 1 January 2021 and expire on 31 December 2021.

108. *Belgium, Germany and Greece were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services by acclamation.*

109. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from African States to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

110. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	53
<i>Required majority:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Nigeria	53
Algeria	52

111. *Having obtained the required majority, Algeria and Nigeria were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services.*

112. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from Asia-Pacific States to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

113. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	53
<i>Required majority:</i>	27

<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Bangladesh	53
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	49

114. *Having obtained the required majority, Bangladesh and Iran (Islamic Republic of) were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services.*

115. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from Eastern European States to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

116. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	52
<i>Required majority:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Russian Federation	52

117. *Having obtained the required majority, the Russian Federation was elected a member of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services.*

118. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from Latin American and Caribbean States to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

119. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cuba	52
Guatemala	52

120. *Having obtained the required majority, Cuba and Guatemala were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services.*

121. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot four members from Western European and other States to the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

122. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Finland	54
Spain	54
New Zealand	53
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	49

123. *Having obtained the required majority, Finland, New Zealand, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services.*

Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

124. **The President** invited the Council to elect seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, in accordance with Council resolution 2015/1 of 4 March 2015. The Group of Asia-Pacific States had endorsed the candidature of the Republic of Korea; the Group of Western European and other States had endorsed the candidature of Switzerland; Colombia had presented its candidature for the seat allocated to Latin-American and Caribbean States; and Nigeria had presented its candidature for the seat allocated to African States. In addition, the candidature of Thailand had been submitted for one of the two seats allocated to States members of the Council. He took it that the Council wished to elect the proposed candidates by acclamation for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2021 and expiring on 31 December 2022 or until they ceased being members of the Council.

125. *Colombia, Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Thailand were elected members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission by acclamation.*

Commission on Population and Development (E/2020/9 and E/2020/9/Corr.1)

126. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from African States to the Commission on Population and Development for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-fifth session in 2021 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session in 2025.

127. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Botswana	54
Comoros	53
Ethiopia	53

128. *Having obtained the required majority, Botswana, the Comoros and Ethiopia were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development.*

129. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from Asia-Pacific States to the Commission on Population and Development for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-fifth session in 2021 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session in 2025.

130. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Japan	53
India	51
Philippines	51

131. *Having obtained the required majority, India, Japan and the Philippines were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development.*

132. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from Eastern European States to the Commission on Population and Development for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-fifth session in 2021 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session in 2025.

133. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	53
<i>Required majority:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Republic of Moldova	53

134. *Having obtained the required majority, the Republic of Moldova was elected a member of the Commission on Population and Development.*

135. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from Latin American and Caribbean States to the Commission on Population and Development for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-fifth session in 2021 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session in 2025.

136. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Costa Rica	52
Cuba	52
Mexico	50

137. *Having obtained the required majority, Costa Rica, Cuba and Mexico were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development.*

138. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot four members from Western European and other States to the Commission on Population and Development for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-fifth session in 2021 and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session in 2025.

139. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	2
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	52
<i>Required majority:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Belgium	52

140. *Having obtained the required majority, Belgium was elected a member of the Commission on Population and Development.*

Committee for Programme and Coordination (E/2020/9/Add.1)

141. **The President** invited the Council to nominate by secret ballot four members from African States for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

142. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	1
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	53
<i>Required majority:</i>	27
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Cameroon	53
Eritrea	53
Eswatini	53
Mali	53

143. *Having obtained the required majority, Cameroon, Eritrea, Eswatini and Mali were nominated for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.*

144. **The President** invited the Council to nominate by secret ballot four members from Asia-Pacific States for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

145. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Japan	53
Pakistan	52
India	51
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	50

146. *Having obtained the required majority, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan and Pakistan were nominated for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.*

147. **The President** invited the Council to nominate by secret ballot three members from Eastern European States for election by the General Assembly to the

Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

148. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Belarus	53
Poland	53
Armenia	52

149. *Having obtained the required majority, Armenia, Belarus and Poland were nominated for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.*

150. **The President** invited the Council to nominate by secret ballot four members from Latin American and Caribbean States for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

151. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Brazil	52
Costa Rica	52
Cuba	52

152. *Having obtained the required majority, Brazil, Costa Rica and Cuba were nominated for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.*

153. **The President** invited the Council to nominate by secret ballot five members from Western European and other States for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

154. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Italy	54
Malta	54

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 49
United States of America 48

155. *Having obtained the required majority, Italy, Malta, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were nominated for election by the General Assembly to the Committee for Programme and Coordination.*

Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (E/2020/9/Add.8)

156. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from Asia-Pacific States to the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

157. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Abstentions:</i>	3
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	51
<i>Required majority:</i>	26
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	51

158. *Having obtained the required majority, the Islamic Republic of Iran was elected a member of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.*

159. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from Latin American and Caribbean States to the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

160. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Guyana	54

161. *Having obtained the required majority, Guyana was elected a member of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.*

162. **The President** invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from Western European and

other States to the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2021.

163. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	54
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	54
<i>Number of representatives voting:</i>	54
<i>Required majority:</i>	28
<i>Number of votes obtained:</i>	
Denmark	54
Canada	51

164. *Having obtained the required majority, Canada and Denmark were elected members of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.*

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.