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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 22 July 2022, at 10 a.m.

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* Reissued for technical reasons on 27 February 2023.

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Conclusion of the 2022 session of the Council

In the absence of Mr. Kelapile (Botswana), Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria), Vice-President, took the Chair.

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

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

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (continued) (A/77/16)

1. **The President** said she took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its sixty-second session (A/77/16).

2. *It was so decided.*

(b) Proposed programme budget for 2023 (A/77/6)

3. **The President** said she took it that the Council wished to take note of the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for 2023 (A/77/6).

4. *It was so decided.*

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (continued) (E/2022/L.13)

Draft resolution E/2022/L.13: Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

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

6. *Draft resolution E/2022/L.13 was adopted.*

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (continued)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (continued) (E/2022/L.23)

Draft resolution E/2022/L.23: Programme of action for the least developed countries for the decade 2022–2031

7. **The President** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

8. **Ms. Majeed** (Observer for Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, conflicts and climate change had adversely affected food security,

energy security, global trade and market stability, thereby jeopardizing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries was essential to rapid, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic, resilience against future shocks, the eradication of extreme poverty, structural transformation and the achievement of the Goals, through a reinvigorated global partnership for sustainable development based on ambitious means of implementation and diverse support for the least developed countries. In the draft resolution, the Council called upon those countries, with the support of their development partners, to take actions to implement the Doha Programme of Action. The Council also called upon development partners and all other relevant actors to implement the Programme of Action by integrating it into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments. The Group would support the implementation of the Programme of Action through South-South cooperation, which was not a substitute for but a complement to North-South cooperation. It commended the Council's decision to devote adequate time in its programme of work to discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing the least developed countries.

9. The Group reiterated the request to the Secretary-General to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up to and monitoring of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. It looked forward to the second part of the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Doha in March 2023, and thanked the Government of Qatar for its support in the preparations for the Conference.

10. *Draft resolution E/2022/L.23 was adopted.*

11. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that, with regard to paragraph 9 of the resolution, his delegation reiterated its explanation of position regarding the Doha Programme of Action, delivered at the first part of the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in New York in March 2022.

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

(f) African countries emerging from conflict *(continued)* (E/2022/L.20)

Draft decision E/2022/L.20: African countries emerging from conflict

12. **The President** said that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

13. *Draft decision E/2022/L.20 was adopted.*

(g) Sustainable development in the Sahel *(continued)* (E/2022/L.21)

Draft decision E/2022/L.21: Sustainable development in the Sahel

14. **The President** said that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

15. *Draft decision E/2022/L.21 was adopted.*

(e) Long-term programme of support for Haiti *(continued)* (E/2022/L.24)

Draft resolution E/2022/L.24: Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

16. **Mr. Rae** (Canada), Chair of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, introducing draft resolution E/2022/L.24, said that the resilience of the Haitian people had been tested by natural disasters, economic exploitation and fragility, political instability, violence, corruption, and impunity, which threatened the country's prospects for sustainable development. The situation had deteriorated over the past year. The assassination of the President, Jovenel Moïse, in July 2021, and the recovery and reconstruction needs resulting from the devastating earthquake and flooding of August 2021, had compounded the challenges facing the country. Violence by heavily armed gangs posed a serious threat to civilians and humanitarian workers; the kidnappings, murders, theft and brutality were a direct threat to the safety and security of every Haitian. Without order there could be no justice, and without development there could be neither order nor justice. The spiral of violence, which threatened all that had been achieved in recent years, must be broken. The solutions to the country's deep-rooted structural problems must be Haitian-led; other countries could help only if they understood that the challenges facing Haiti were interconnected and that the approaches taken

in previous decades by individual countries, donors and the United Nations had not worked.

17. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had joined the Advisory Group in 2022; the participation of other countries in the Caribbean and Africa would be essential to the Advisory Group's work. The Group had conducted its annual visits to Washington, D.C., and Haiti, and had carried out its work for the rest of the year through virtual meetings. In its report (E/2022/52), the Advisory Group had made recommendations on the way forward, on the basis of consultations with the Government of Haiti as well as with representatives of international financial institutions, civil society, the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti and the United Nations country team.

18. The political crisis must be resolved through an inclusive national dialogue to pave the way for free, fair, transparent and credible elections. Women and young people must participate fully in building the future of Haiti. Security must be restored in a coordinated manner, by strengthening the Haitian National Police and combating the socioeconomic causes of violence. Corruption must be fought and the cycle of impunity must be broken. The rule of law, the administration of justice and the promotion of human rights were essential to resilience, sustainable development and stability.

19. The international community must address the acute socioeconomic challenges facing Haiti. Nearly half the population needed humanitarian assistance and hunger levels were alarmingly high. The rising humanitarian needs must be met, including through adequate funding of the 2022 Haiti Humanitarian Response Plan and support for reconstruction and recovery. Close coordination between national actors, the United Nations, international and regional financial institutions, international donors, and development partners was critical.

20. The international community must also help Haiti to address its long-term needs, including significant investment in agriculture, on which 40 per cent of the population depended; the provision of accessible, affordable and high-quality education; and the strengthening of resilience to climate change and economic vulnerabilities. The United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti and the country team must strengthen their coordination in order to deliver as one, and to work across the humanitarian, development, peace and human rights pillars to maximize impacts and make progress towards sustainable development. The international community must stand in solidarity with the people of Haiti and do its utmost to support their aspirations.

21. **The President** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

22. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Equatorial Guinea and Jamaica had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

23. *Draft resolution E/2022/L.24 was adopted.*

24. **Mr. Louis** (Observer for Haiti) said that his delegation welcomed the fact that the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination had focused on strengthening its capacities and engaging in the global response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

25. Haiti was in a fragile situation, facing a multidimensional crisis involving political instability; gang violence and insecurity, which had displaced countless people within the country; civil unrest; worsening socioeconomic conditions; unemployment; food insecurity; and institutional challenges. Since June 2021, in Port-au-Prince, violence had resulted in the displacement of 36,000 people and had left 1.5 million people lacking health services and education, and facing a deterioration in hygiene, sanitation and drinking water access.

26. The authorities were improving the security situation and strengthening the National Police, which faced operational and logistical problems and a lack of resources. The Government was increasing the effectiveness of operations against organized gangs, while striking a balance between prevention and punishment. His delegation therefore welcomed the establishment by the country's international partners of a multi-donor basket fund to professionalize the National Police, strengthen its capacity to prevent and fight crime and gather information, and enhance its accountability and internal governance.

27. His delegation supported the recommendations made by the Advisory Group in its report (E/2022/52) and welcomed the adoption of the resolution. The international community must provide technical and financial support to fight insecurity, which had been worsened by the violence that had paralysed the country. It must also invest in agriculture, education and health. Despite chronic sociopolitical instability, budgetary constraints and natural disasters, his Government had established a long-term strategy to coordinate the planning, programming and management of the country's development. The strategy was an extension of the strategic development plan of Haiti, which was based on territorial, economic, social and institutional rebuilding. Measures must therefore be taken to implement the Advisory Group's recommendations,

particularly those on the need for a holistic approach to the country's development that took into account the three pillars of the United Nations system, namely, peace and security, development and human rights. Security and long-term sociopolitical stability were essential to sustainable development and lasting peace. He thanked the Advisory Group for its work and hoped that it would continue to help the Haitian authorities to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, particularly by ensuring that international aid to Haiti was coherent, effective and sustainable.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (continued) (E/2022/L.28)

Draft decision E/2022/L.28: Dates of the youth forum in 2023

28. **The President** said that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

29. *Draft decision E/2022/L.28 was adopted.*

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

(g) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2022/43)

30. **Mr. Mejía Montalvo** (Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues), introducing the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its twenty-first session (E/2022/43), said that the challenge of travelling to New York to attend the Permanent Forum was too great for many indigenous people, while lack of infrastructure and digital illiteracy were barriers to their virtual participation. However, the Permanent Forum had achieved its objectives at its session, the theme of which had been "Indigenous peoples, business, autonomy and the human rights principles of due diligence including free, prior and informed consent". During the discussion, it had been pointed out that indigenous peoples had always had their own forms of business and had practised entrepreneurship in harmony with nature. However, they were victims of business models that did not take into account the ownership of their lands, resources, knowledge or forms of organization, and binding instruments must therefore be established to protect their collective rights. The Permanent Forum was concerned by the continuous killings, violence and harassment targeted at indigenous human rights defenders, including women, who were resisting mining and extraction projects, including those related to the energy transition. It was also concerned by the expropriation of indigenous knowledge,

including through enclave economies, in areas such as fashion, art, music, textiles, food and pharmaceuticals. The media played an important role in that regard.

31. In accordance with previous recommendations of the Permanent Forum, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women would soon adopt a general recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls, and the General Assembly had proclaimed the period 2022–2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. Much remained to be done, however. At the session, the Permanent Forum had established a virtual working group on reconciliation, truth and transitional justice, to ensure lasting peace for indigenous peoples. It had also proposed to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum that a three-day international expert group meeting be held on the theme “Truth, transitional justice and reconciliation processes”, in order to inform the work of the Forum at its twenty-second session, on the theme “Indigenous peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”. The Permanent Forum had chosen the theme for its twenty-second session in response to the climate crisis and the Council’s suggestion that additional ways of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals be explored in its programme of work and the 2023 midpoint review of progress towards the Goals.

32. The work of the Permanent Forum, which was only a step in the historic dialogue for justice, could not be reduced to any one of the Forum’s actions. When the United Nations had been founded, indigenous peoples had been left behind; only their courage, dignity and persistence, together with the will of the Member States and the United Nations system, had made it possible for them to be represented in the Organization. The Permanent Forum was a constant reminder of the importance of intercultural dialogue and learning from best practices.

Draft decision I: Truth, transitional justice and reconciliation processes

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

Draft decision III: Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its twenty-first session and provisional agenda for its twenty-second session

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

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

35. **The President** said that a proposed amendment to draft decision III had been submitted in document [E/2022/L.25](#). The amendment contained no programme budget implications.

36. **Mr. Nasir** (Indonesia), speaking also on behalf of Bangladesh and India to introduce the proposed amendment, said that the proposed amendment should now read “takes note of the official communications of the Member States that have been referred to in the report, addressed to the Chair of the twenty-first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as well as to the President of the Economic and Social Council”. The three delegations were simply requesting that the Council take note of their communications. Their intention was not to interfere with the workings of the Permanent Forum or change the report; they merely wanted their voice to be heard, a basic right of Member States.

37. Indonesia, Bangladesh and India strongly supported indigenous peoples’ rights, and had engaged constructively in the sessions of the Permanent Forum as observers. However, when the report had been adopted, they had been denied the opportunity to deliver statements on the references made to them. The three countries had always shown unwavering commitment to international efforts to empower and protect indigenous communities. The proposed amendment would not discourage collective efforts to uphold indigenous peoples’ rights; rather, it would allow the Permanent Forum to fulfil its mandate by enabling dialogue and collaboration between Member States and indigenous communities for a better future. The United Republic of Tanzania had joined the sponsors of the proposed amendment.

38. **The President** said that a recorded vote had been requested on the proposed amendment contained in document [E/2022/L.25](#), as orally revised.

Statements made in explanation of vote before the voting

39. **Ms. Sandström** (Finland) said that the unprecedented proposal of an amendment to the Council’s decision on the report of the Permanent Forum was regrettable. As an advisory body to the Council, the Permanent Forum’s mandate was to provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues. The report of the Permanent Forum was not an intergovernmentally negotiated document. Her delegation fully respected the positions of all Member

States and their right to be heard; with regard to the report of the Permanent Forum, such positions could be expressed through national statements that would be included in the official record of the meeting. However, the integrity of the Permanent Forum and other advisory bodies would be harmed if the Council took note, in a decision on the report of an independent expert body, of communications by Member States. Finland had therefore requested a vote on the proposed amendment.

40. **Ms. Aldorf** (Czechia), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the proposal of an amendment to the decision ran counter to the established practice of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The mandate of the Permanent Forum was to provide the Council with expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues. The Forum's members, who represented the diversity and geographical distribution of indigenous peoples around the world, served in their individual capacity as independent experts. The report was not an intergovernmentally negotiated document and did not require endorsement by the Council, whose established practice was to note experts' reports, not reopen or amend them.

41. The European Union respected the views of all Member States, which could be expressed through national statements, to be included in the record of the meeting. The European Union would also have had wished to make comments on the report; members of the Permanent Forum had condemned the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and its impact on the situation of indigenous peoples, including Crimean Tatars. It was regrettable that those elements did not appear clearly in the report, owing to the opposition of members from the Russian Federation; however, the European Union accepted that the report was a product of the deliberations of the Permanent Forum, whose members must reach agreement among themselves. That acceptance did not imply that the European Union accepted the report's serious shortcomings regarding the horrifying consequences of the illegal Russian war. For those reasons, the European Union could not support the proposed amendment, as orally revised. It called upon the States concerned to withdraw it and follow the practice of expressing national views through statements.

42. **Ms. Caldera Gutiérrez** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the Permanent Forum was a body of independent experts, consisting of eight members nominated by organizations of indigenous peoples and appointed by the President of the Council following broad consultations with the regional groups, and eight

members nominated by States. That composition ensured not only that the Permanent Forum was sensitive to the situations of indigenous peoples in different regions but also that its recommendations were formulated in a balanced way, debated and adopted by consensus. The Permanent Forum was essential to the recognition and exercise of rights by more than 470 million people who self-identified as indigenous. It had fostered the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and had enabled dialogue between such peoples and Member States. Since its establishment, the Permanent Forum had adopted 21 reports and had never before encountered a situation in which, as a result of disagreements with its recommendations, an intergovernmental body was requested to adopt a decision in which it took note of concerns about specific recommendations related to four States, particularly given that the report contained much broader recommendations that were not directed only at the countries that had proposed the amendment.

43. States had the prerogative not only to maintain a continuous, robust dialogue with the members of the Permanent Forum but also to disagree with the Forum's recommendations, providing that they did so at the appropriate time and in the appropriate bodies. That right could have been exercised in the current situation, without the need for an amendment. The proposed amendment, as orally revised, did not strengthen the integrity of the Permanent Forum; voting against the proposed amendment would not prevent any Member State from exercising its inalienable right to express its national position on the Forum's recommendations.

44. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that the United States supported the independence of all United Nations bodies and mechanisms, including the Permanent Forum, which was composed of cross-regional experts who served in their personal capacity and provided advice on the situation of indigenous peoples around the world. Member States might not always agree with the experts' positions and recommendations; the United States would have wished to amend the report to reflect the strong statements made by many delegations at the Permanent Forum's twenty-first session about the unprovoked and unjustified war in Ukraine. However, the United States did not interfere with the independence of the Forum or any other mechanism, and would not alter or add to a report once it had been issued by an expert body. If delegations had comments on reports of the Forum or any other expert body of the Council, they should share such views in the form of a statement during the general discussion on

those reports, rather than seeking to revise the reports and infringe on the independence of the Forum. Mechanisms such as the Forum must be independent in order to help Member States to promote and protect human rights, including indigenous peoples' rights.

45. *At the request of the representative of Finland, a recorded vote was taken on the proposed amendment contained in document E/2022/L.25, as orally revised.*

In favour:

Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania.

Against:

Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Benin, Chile, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Israel, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Republic of Korea, Solomon Islands, Tunisia.

46. *The proposed amendment was rejected by 25 votes to 12, with 12 abstentions.**

47. **Ms. Solano Ramirez** (Colombia) said that her delegation had voted against the proposed amendment, even though it would not have affected the content of the report. Colombia endorsed the work of the Permanent Forum, whose independence, autonomy and working methods must be preserved so that it could serve as an advisory body to the Council in accordance with its mandate. Every State had the prerogative to express its views on the matters considered by the Permanent Forum at its sessions; dialogue among all parties must be deepened so that the Forum could be strengthened.

48. **Mr. Elizondo Belden** (Mexico) said that, although every delegation had the right to propose amendments, the amendment proposed in document E/2022/L.25 had been unnecessary. The general discussion of the report of the Permanent Forum would have been the appropriate point at which to express divergent perspectives; his delegation had therefore voted against the proposed amendment. Mexico recognized the work of the Permanent Forum as an advisory body to the Council, composed of 16 independent experts from the seven indigenous sociocultural regions, and welcomed

the Forum's report, which was the result not of intergovernmental negotiations but of exchanges among the experts. Mexico supported the Forum in fulfilling its mandate under Council resolution 2000/22, including by drafting a report.

49. The right of every Member State to hold divergent views was the essence of multilateralism. Mexico therefore called upon Member States, the Permanent Forum and organizations of indigenous peoples to strengthen their dialogue and improve the quality of their exchanges in order to reach understandings and achieve tangible results related to the rights and sustainable development of indigenous peoples. By adopting the draft decisions contained in the report, the Council would renew its commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The work of the Permanent Forum was essential to achieving the objectives set out in the Declaration.

50. **Mr. Schaare** (New Zealand) said that his delegation had voted not on the substance of the proposed amendment but on the procedural aspects and the potential for a precedent to be set. Member States should express their views during the general discussion in the form of a statement, which would be reflected in the record of the meeting.

51. **Mr. Sharma** (India) said that India strongly supported the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, and the process of enhancing such peoples' participation in United Nations meetings on issues that affected them. India had supported the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The concept of indigenous peoples was related to specific situations in which people suffered from historic injustices as a result of being colonized, and dispossessed of lands and resources. That complex concept should not be expanded to create artificial divides through the inclusion of societies in which diverse ethnic groups had lived together for thousands of years.

52. His delegation had engaged with the Permanent Forum constructively at its twenty-first session, but the Forum had decided to include references to India in the report without giving his delegation an opportunity to present its positions, express its views, deliver a statement or even call for a point of order when the report had been adopted; the basic right of India as a Member State to be heard had been blatantly violated. His delegation had had no choice but to request the Council, as the parent body of the Forum, to take note of its official communications. That simple request had

* The delegation of Nicaragua subsequently informed the Council that it had intended to vote in favour of the proposed amendment.

been made with no intention of changing the report or undermining the Forum. It was regrettable that a vote had been requested on a factual and objective amendment that had been proposed in order to help Member States to make their voice heard. It was also regrettable that some Member States had undertaken a baseless campaign of misinformation to suggest that the proposed amendment had been a challenge to the workings of the Forum. His delegation had been surprised to hear the dictates of many Member States on the course of action that India should have followed. Despite its strong commitment to the rights of indigenous peoples, India had no choice but to request a vote on draft decision III.

53. **Mr. Nasir** (Indonesia) said that the basic right of Indonesia to state its position had once again been violated, just as it had been when the report had been adopted. His delegation had simply requested that the Council take note of its official communications, with no intention of interfering with the Permanent Forum's process or changing the report, let alone undermine the Forum. His delegation supported a strong, respected Council and a strong, independent Permanent Forum. Although the report of the Forum contained references that were unfounded and incorrect, and did not reflect the situation of indigenous peoples in Indonesia, his delegation had opted to propose an uncontroversial factual amendment to the Council's decision, rather than to the report. Individuals had continuously misused the Permanent Forum to undermine the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Member States. His delegation had wanted not to change the report but to uphold multilateralism. It had respected the independence of the Forum's members and would continue to support the promotion and protection of indigenous people's rights. However, Member States had a collective responsibility to remind the Permanent Forum to uphold the Charter and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Deliberations on issues related to indigenous peoples must be conducted in accordance with the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and the independence of States. In order to preserve multilateralism, Member States must not be precluded from stating their views and concerns, including in their capacity as observers.

54. **Ms. Monica** (Bangladesh) said that it was regrettable that a vote had been requested on the amendment, which her delegation had been forced to propose as it had been denied its basic right to express

its position on a report that contained information about Bangladesh. She thanked the delegations that had voted in favour of the proposed amendment. Her delegation had engaged constructively with the Permanent Forum and provided all the information requested by the members. It welcomed the Forum's interest in the situation of ethnic minorities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region of Bangladesh, but regretted the fact that the engagement had been one-directional. Denying a Member State the right to speak at an open United Nations meeting set a dangerous precedent of discrimination. In denying Bangladesh that right, the Permanent Forum had not only infringed on the country's right to defend its national position at the United Nations, which had been founded on the principle of sovereign equality, but had also undermined the genuine and positive engagement of Bangladesh with the Permanent Forum.

55. Bangladesh greatly valued the Permanent Forum's contribution with regard to indigenous issues and had always engaged with the Forum, despite their differences, to address the rights and well-being of the ethnic minorities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord had been an important milestone in the history of Bangladesh and had ended the decades-long conflict in the region. Bangladesh had provided detailed information on its efforts to implement the Peace Accord in its written communications to the Chair of the Permanent Forum. Through the Accord, the political and economic integration of ethnic minorities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts had been enabled and peace had been consolidated. In a survey conducted by the United Nations Development Programme, 65 per cent of the 2,500 households surveyed had reported that they could move around freely outside their village, compared with 34.5 per cent before the signature of the Peace Accord. Her Government therefore recognized the value of implementing the Accord fully and integrating the region's ethnic minorities into the country's transformative development journey. It counted on the Forum's advice as it continued those efforts.

56. Bangladesh was disappointed that, when it had asked to provide information in response to the Permanent Forum's report, it had not been allowed to speak. As a Member State willing to engage with the Forum, it had been denied an opportunity to express its position. When Bangladesh had asked the Council to take note of its position, it had once again been denied that right and discriminated against, although it had made it clear that it had no intention of undermining the

Forum or changing the report; all it had wanted was for the Council to take note of the communications in which Bangladesh had expressed its positions on the references made by the Forum. Her delegation would continue to work with the Forum and engage with Member States to strengthen the Forum's working methods so that it engaged with Member States in a spirit of mutual cooperation and dialogue.

57. **Mr. Rae** (Canada) said that Canada had engaged in a process of truth and reconciliation with its large indigenous population; as part of that vital journey, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples had been incorporated into federal and provincial law. With regard to the comments made on the report of the Permanent Forum at the current meeting, all Member States had a great deal of listening to do. No one could be indifferent to the concerns raised in the proposed amendment; the delegations that had voted against it had done so to avoid interfering with the adoption of the report. The matter was sensitive, and the concerns raised by the sponsors of the proposed amendment must be addressed.

58. As a result of the increasing discussion of indigenous issues around the world, more supple concepts of sovereignty were needed in order to take into account issues of self-government and the territorial integrity of indigenous lands, which were essential to the future of indigenous peoples. In Canada, watertight divisions between the work of the federal Government and provincial governments had been established in the Constitution of 1867, but more recent engagement with the indigenous nations on their self-government, together with the related decisions of the Supreme Court, had made it clear that a simple definition of sovereignty was insufficient. That situation was challenging for many nations that had emerged from colonization and felt strongly about maintaining their territorial integrity. The Permanent Forum was one of the bodies in which those issues must be addressed.

59. **The President** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft decision III.

60. **Mr. Elizondo Belden** (Mexico), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the request for a vote on the draft decision was regrettable. His delegation recognized the right of Member States to express divergent opinions and reiterated its call for deeper dialogue between States and the Permanent Forum; however, the general discussion of the report was the appropriate point at which to express divergent

views. He urged other delegations to vote in favour of the draft decision.

61. *At the request of the representative of India, a recorded vote was taken on draft decision III.*

In favour:

Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Libya, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Israel, Madagascar, United Republic of Tanzania.

62. *The draft decision was adopted by 42 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.*

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 (A/77/66 and A/77/93-E/2022/67; E/2022/51; E/2022/L.22)

Draft resolution E/2022/L.22: Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

63. **The President** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

64. **Mr. Nasir** (Indonesia), Vice-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, introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/77/66), said that the report contained a list of specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations to which General Assembly resolution 76/87 applied.

65. Introducing the report of the President of the Council on information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration (E/2022/51), he said that the report contained information submitted by 12 system entities regarding the support provided to Non-Self-Governing Territories, including in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressing climate change. The General Assembly and the Council had emphasized that, without the continuing support of the organizations of the United Nations system, the Territories would be constrained in meeting the special challenges they faced in achieving sustainable development. At the Special Committee's regional seminar on decolonization, held in May 2022 in Saint Lucia, and its substantive session in June 2022, the Territories had voiced their concerns over the difficulties encountered in dealing with the pandemic and the importance of the support received from system entities. He encouraged those entities to engage further with the Special committee, particularly by participating in the annual seminar and providing the information called for in relevant resolutions. He reiterated the request made by the General Assembly and the Council to the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and regional organizations, to strengthen the support provided to, and formulate programmes of assistance for, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, in order to accelerate their socioeconomic progress.

66. Introducing the draft resolution (E/2022/L.22), he said that the Council recalled the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in connection with the pandemic, and stressed the need for a united and coordinated response. It reaffirmed that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. It requested the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, and international and regional organizations, to examine and review conditions in each Territory so that they could take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories on a case-by-case basis. Such assistance was of great importance in light of the challenges facing the fragile

economies and vulnerability of the Territories, which were compounded by the pandemic.

67. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that Botswana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had become sponsors of the draft resolution. She then noted that India also wished to become a sponsor.

68. **The President** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution E/2022/L.22.

69. **Ms. Korac** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the draft resolution was similar to other draft resolutions on the matter considered by the Council since 2006 and identical to the draft resolution considered the previous year; the United States would therefore maintain its practice of abstaining from the voting. It agreed in principle that United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies could provide useful support to territories that were not members of the Organization. However, the administering Power had a sovereign responsibility to determine the manner in which territories could participate in or engage with the United Nations system. The domestic laws and policies of the administering Power determined whether such support was allowed, and the language in the draft resolution was inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, which gave the federal Government sole authority for the conduct of foreign relations. Consequently, her delegation could not support the draft resolution.

70. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/2022/L.22.*

In favour:

Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Chile, China, Colombia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Libya, Mauritius, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Madagascar, Montenegro, Oman, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

71. *The draft resolution was adopted by 23 votes to none, with 25 abstentions.*

72. **Mr. Alvarez** (Argentina) said that the resolution should be applied in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and of the Special committee on specific Territories.

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 (A/77/90-E/2022/66; E/2022/L.16 and E/2022/L.18)

73. **Mr. Alami** (Director, Emerging and Conflict-related Issues Division, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)), speaking via video link to introduce 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/77/90-E/2022/66), said that, during the reporting period, the policies and practices of Israel had raised concerns about many aspects of the protracted occupation, which had had a severe humanitarian, economic, social and political impact on Palestinians' ability to exercise their fundamental rights. Israel had intensified its repression of dissent by Palestinians, and had targeted organizations that sought accountability for Israeli violations of international law or accused Israel of apartheid.

74. Despite its obligations under international law, Israel had escalated its use of force against Palestinians, including unwarranted force amounting to arbitrary deprivation of life, coupled with a lack of accountability. The May 2021 military escalation against Gaza had resulted in many civilian deaths and injuries, and extensive destruction of civilian infrastructure, despite the obligation of Israel, under international humanitarian law, to abide by the principles of distinction and proportionality. In the West Bank, Israel had failed to protect Palestinians from settler violence, which had reached its highest level since 2017, or to hold perpetrators accountable. On the contrary, Israeli security and military personnel appeared to be complicit in many of the attacks. The arrest, incarceration and arbitrary detention of thousands of Palestinians

continued. Hundreds were held in administrative detention, without charge or trial, for an indefinite period, with documented cases of torture and ill-treatment of detainees, including children.

75. The policies and practices of Israel in Area C and East Jerusalem had created a coercive environment that compelled Palestinians to leave their homes in what could amount to forcible transfer. The demolition of Palestinian homes and other structures, including those funded by donors, as well as the consequent displacement of Palestinians, had continued, often as a result of settlement expansion plans. Israel had continued its settlement expansion policies, in what amounted to the transfer of its population into an occupied territory, in violation of international humanitarian law. Punitive demolitions of the homes of families and neighbours of Palestinians suspected of carrying out attacks amounted to collective punishment, which was also prohibited under international humanitarian law. In Gaza, around 16,250 housing and commercial units had been damaged during the May 2021 escalation, aggravating the housing shortage in one of the most densely populated areas in the world.

76. Israeli restrictions on movement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory had continued to disrupt Palestinians' daily life, affecting their rights to work, an adequate standard of living, education and health. The 15-year blockade of Gaza amounted to the collective punishment of more than 2.1 million Palestinians, worsening their living conditions and impeding development and reconstruction.

77. Israeli policies deprived Palestinians of access to their own natural resources, to the benefit of Israeli settlements and industries. As a result, the average daily consumption of an Israeli settler was four times that of a Palestinian. Israeli authorities diverted water resources to settlements at the expense of Palestinians, including by seizing wells and blocking Palestinian access to, or destroying, natural water resources. The main water source of Gaza had been depleted and its water was unfit for human consumption. Israel prevented Palestinians from using over two thirds of the West Bank's agricultural resources and 35 per cent of Gaza's farmland. Israel was exploiting the West Bank's mineral resources, which were worth \$30 billion, and had not issued quarrying permits for Palestinian companies since 1994. Israel had also severely curtailed the access of Palestinians to energy reserves located in Palestinian territory and coastal waters, including an estimated 1.5 billion barrels of oil reserves in the West

Bank and natural gas deposits worth \$2.57 billion off the Gaza coast.

78. In 2022, approximately 2.1 million Palestinians, including three quarters of the population of Gaza, were in need of humanitarian assistance. The situation had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the decline in external funding and the May 2021 escalation. Israeli policies and practices had stripped the Palestinian economy of vital elements, and the productive base had continued to shrink. The May 2021 escalation had resulted in the destruction of about 2 per cent of Gaza's capital stock, and approximately 8,000 households were expected to fall into poverty within months. The per capita gross domestic product of Gaza was 52 per cent lower than in 2005. Unemployment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was 26 per cent, with hyper-unemployment in Gaza, at 47 per cent. Unemployment among women was 43 per cent, almost twice as high as among men. The number of food-insecure people had increased across the Occupied Palestinian Territory to 2 million in early 2021, from 1.7 million in 2018.

79. The Palestinian health-care system was fragile and disconnected. It was undergoing de-development and lacked human, financial and material resources, which severely impaired its capacity to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. The occupation had affected education and infrastructure, with compounded and specific effects on women and girls.

80. The Israeli annexation of, and active support for settlement activity in, the occupied Syrian Golan violated international law. Syrians in the Golan suffered from discriminatory policies designed to benefit Israeli settlers at their expense, particularly in land and water allocation, planning and zoning, and demining. The policies had resulted in harsh economic and social conditions, which were expected to worsen as a result of new Israeli projects and plans.

81. The deterioration of the situation since the end of the reporting period had reinforced the Secretary-General's conclusions regarding the detrimental effects of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of Palestinians and Syrians, and on development prospects in the occupied territories. Current trends and persistent Israeli policies rendered the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the establishment of a viable Palestinian State almost impossible. The occupation had led to de-development, especially in Gaza, and had resulted in a fragmented economy that was dependent on Israel and foreign aid. Many of the policies ran counter to international law. Some were

discriminatory, while others might amount to forcible transfer and collective punishment. Adherence to international law was an imperative in order to ensure that no party enjoyed impunity, and to secure justice and peace for all those living in the region.

82. **Ms. Korac** (United States of America) said that the United States was concerned about pronounced anti-Israel bias at the United Nations. Such bias was evident in the one-sided report and recommendations contained in the note by the Secretary-General, which did nothing to advance a more secure, peaceful and prosperous future for Palestinians and Israelis. In the unbalanced report and related draft resolutions, Israel was unfairly singled out in a forum that was not intended to be politicized. The United States shared with many members of the international community the goal of lasting and comprehensive peace between Israel and the Palestinians, and would work towards a more peaceful, secure and prosperous future for the people of the Middle East. It was committed to a two-State solution and the idea that Israelis and Palestinians deserved equal measures of security, prosperity and dignity. Reports and draft resolutions that were as consistently biased and counterproductive as those currently before the Council were a distraction from its critical work. They did nothing to promote peace or improve the situation for Israelis and Palestinians. The United States would vote against the draft resolutions related to the report.

83. **Mr. Nayyal** (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation welcomed the report contained in the note by the Secretary-General, in which ESCWA had reaffirmed that the protracted Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the Palestinian territories adversely affected their social and economic development, and the future of their inhabitants. Israel, the occupying Power, was pursuing policies and practices that contravened relevant Security Council resolutions, international humanitarian law and international human rights law. In recent years, the Israeli occupying authorities had significantly increased the number of settlers in the occupied Syrian Golan by offering Israelis incentives to reside there, including land for housing and commercial agricultural development, and large financial incentives. His Government condemned those acts; all settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan were illegal under international law. Moreover, the expansion of settlements and the related Israeli commercial activity adversely affected the health, environment and agricultural activities of Syrian citizens in the area.

84. His delegation deplored the occupying Power's expropriation of land, including land owned by displaced Syrian Arabs, and of natural resources in the occupied Syrian Golan. Lands were expropriated in order to lay mines near the ceasefire line, for military purposes and to build settlements and agricultural and industrial facilities, and areas were fenced off under the pretext of placing them at the disposal of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority. His delegation also deplored the steps taken by the occupying Power to implement a wind-turbine project that would harm the livelihoods of Syrians and expose them to health and environmental risks. His Government condemned the illegal settlement policies of Israel, the occupying power, in the occupied Syrian Golan and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It also condemned the discriminatory practices of the occupation, particularly with regard to access to land and water, and reiterated the need for the root causes of the problems to be addressed through the implementation of the United Nations resolutions on ending the protracted Israeli occupation.

85. **Ms. Abdelhady-Nasser** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that, every year, the Council became more ambitious in its efforts to make sustainable development a fundamental human right; if the international community wished to implement the 2030 Agenda, future generations must be at the centre of sustainable development, with no one left behind. Each year, however, millions of people in occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, were denied their right to development because of a colonial foreign occupation. Deprived of the right to self-determination, which was essential to the enjoyment of all other human rights, they were enduring a grave injustice that had no place in the twenty-first century.

86. The illegal 55-year foreign occupation of Palestinian land by Israel had cemented a systematic denial of human rights that precluded sustainable development and had suppressed Palestinians' human potential for generations. From mass dispossession and displacement to colonialism and apartheid, the Palestinian people's developmental capacities were being severely constrained and their economic and social conditions undermined by the longest foreign occupation in modern history.

87. Development in Palestine was directly hindered, obstructed and under assault owing to the illegal Israeli occupation. Land was regularly appropriated, settlements were incessantly constructed and natural

resources were heavily exploited. Movement restrictions were unjustly imposed, including through a suffocating 15-year blockade that had transformed the Gaza Strip into the world's largest open-air prison and had inflicted a dire humanitarian crisis. Homes, schools and livelihood structures were repeatedly demolished. Access to education and health care was severely impeded. Fundamental freedoms were violently repressed. Women and children were aggressively targeted by the occupying forces, including settlers. Thousands of young people and other civilians were arbitrarily detained and imprisoned. Families and entire communities were forcibly displaced and dispossessed, and the lives of consecutive generations were wilfully destroyed.

88. That dark reality was designed to impose coercive and untenable living conditions in order to undermine the presence of Palestinians in their land. Those conditions made true development impossible, let alone the universal goal of living a safe, stable and dignified life. Sustainable development in Palestine could not be achieved without an end to the illegal foreign occupation, which violated all the Palestinian people's rights and obstructed its development and prosperity.

89. While thanking the international community for its long-standing solidarity with Palestine, she appealed to States and organizations to uphold their legal obligations to help the Palestinian people to realize its inalienable right to self-determination and other human rights, including the right to development. Doing so would require serious efforts to establish accountability in order to end violations and the illegal occupation.

90. The Palestinian women's movement was one of the oldest in the region and beyond, having fought on the national and social fronts to achieve freedom and dignity since its establishment more than a century previously. Palestinian women faced many hardships but strove to be resilient and sustain their nation. They needed the Council's solidarity. In draft resolution [E/2022/L.18](#), on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the obstacles facing them and the obligations that needed to be upheld were addressed, starting with the most fundamental obligation, that of ending the Israeli occupation; at the same time, the commitments of the State of Palestine and of the international community were acknowledged. In 2022, the murder in broad daylight of the journalist Shireen Abu Akleh had obliged the international community to discuss women leaders in the public sphere. Ms. Abu Akleh had not been the first journalist to be killed, but

she could not be easily dismissed, dehumanized or blamed for her own fate. The State of Palestine urged Member States to join the call for accountability reflected in the draft resolution, so that the horrific crime did not go unpunished. The draft resolution contained a call for the protection of women as an integral part of protecting the Palestinian people. Much more should be done to spare the lives and end the suffering of Palestinians.

91. Her delegation called upon other delegations to support the draft resolutions on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation, and on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, as a matter of principle and as a reflection of the Council's shared commitment to the value of life, freedom and justice, without discrimination or double standards.

Draft resolution E/2022/L.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

92. **Ms. Majeed** (Observer for Pakistan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that grave concern was expressed in the draft resolution regarding the detrimental economic and social repercussions of the prolonged Israeli occupation and associated regime 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, and regarding the resulting violations of their economic and social rights, including the rights to work, health, education, property, an adequate standard of living, and freedom of access and movement.

93. The occupying Power was called upon in the draft resolution 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. The situation of Palestinian prisoners

and detainees, and the need for urgent attention to their plight in accordance with international law, were highlighted.

94. Appreciation was expressed in the draft resolution for the economic and humanitarian assistance being provided to the Palestinian people, and continued assistance commensurate with the increased socioeconomic and humanitarian needs was urged. 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.

95. In the draft resolution, the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that had begun in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks on the basis of the internationally recognized terms of reference was underscored, and the need for increased and renewed international efforts in that regard was reiterated. The adoption of the draft resolution would alleviate the economic and social hardships of Palestinian and Syrian civilians living under the Israeli foreign occupation, and would ultimately contribute to international efforts to end that injustice and achieve peace, in line with the Charter and international law.

96. **The President** said that a recorded vote had been requested on the draft resolution, which contained no programme budget implications.

97. **Mr. Polzer** (Czechia), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States in explanation of vote before the voting, said that, while the European Union would continue to support the draft resolution, the use of the term "Palestine" could not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and was without prejudice to the individual positions of States members of the European Union on that issue, and hence on the question of the validity of accession to the conventions and treaties mentioned therein. The European Union had not expressed a legal opinion with regard to the use of the term "forced displacement" or certain legal terms used in the draft resolution, and considered that "Palestinian Government" referred to the Palestinian Authority.

98. **Mr. Erdan** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the Palestinian leadership was to blame for its people's situation. Time after time, it chose the self-destructive path of rejecting

every proposed peace plan and every attempt to renew negotiations. The deeply flawed draft resolution, which was based on a libellous ESCWA report, was presented as a catalogue of the ways in which Israel was solely responsible for the Palestinian people's situation, but its authors had completely ignored the roots of the problem, such as the Palestinian Authority's refusal to hold democratic elections for the previous 17 years, violent suppression of basic human rights, and support for and financing of terrorism. It was a disgrace that none of those points was mentioned in the draft resolution or the biased report. According to the Palestinian non-governmental organization (NGO) Aman, most Palestinians considered their leadership's corruption to be the primary Palestinian issue; the word "corruption", however, was nowhere to be found in the report or the draft resolution. Apparently, the report's authors understood the Palestinians' challenges in a completely different way from the Palestinian people themselves.

99. Shockingly, the existence of Hamas, the terror organization that ruled Gaza with an iron fist, was not acknowledged in the draft resolution or the report. Those present should read the Hamas charter, which would fill them with horror. His delegation requested ESCWA to undertake a complete study of the effects of Hamas's rule on development, the economy, free speech, and the education and participation of women and girls, as well as on the minds of the very young, who were indoctrinated to hate and kill Israelis. He asked whether, despite the extensive information that was available on Gaza, the report's authors were so blind that they had never seen or heard of Hamas.

100. The report's authors freely relied on hearsay, while deliberately ignoring documented evidence of Palestinian aggression. For example, the phrase "escalation of hostilities in May 2021" was casually used in the report to refer to a conflict that had begun with a barrage of 4,000 rockets fired from Gaza at Israeli cities and towns; in a direct affront to the intelligence of those present, however, the word "rocket" was not mentioned.

101. The word "terrorism" was hardly mentioned in the draft resolution, while the Palestinian Authority's financing of terror was completely ignored. Each year, the Palestinian Authority paid hundreds of millions of dollars to terrorists and their families as part of its pay-for-slay programme. The Palestinian people would benefit greatly if those funds were invested in job creation or social projects rather than used to support murder and terror. Such indifference to Palestinian

responsibility could be found throughout the draft resolution and the report, and was clear evidence that ESCWA had never intended to base the report on facts. It was sickening that, year after year, ESCWA supposedly probed every aspect of Israeli-Palestinian relations but refrained from reporting on any other country's internal conflicts.

102. The obsession of ESCWA and the Council with Israel, the only vibrant democracy in the Middle East, resulted from a desire to satisfy the political agenda of a few at the expense of the Council's time and resources. Shifting the focus away from the true issues worsening the lives of Palestinians only aggravated their situation. Those delegations that intended to support the draft resolution should eschew political considerations and instead consider what could be achieved if the Council offered a constructive way forward. The Abraham Accords Peace Agreement, as a result of which Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco were working together for the benefit of all their citizens, was an example of what could be accomplished when States chose coexistence and the future of their peoples over conflict. He urged other delegations to reject hate by voting against the draft resolution.

103. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/2022/L.16.*

In favour:

Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Thailand, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Liberia, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Solomon Islands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

104. *The draft resolution was adopted by 43 votes to 4, with 4 abstentions.*

105. **Mr. Rae** (Canada) said that Canada had once again been unable to support the resolution, which lacked balance. It was incomprehensible that the authors of the

report and the resolution had reached the conclusion that one country, namely, Israel, bore all the responsibility for the plight of the people of Palestine. No such conclusion had been reached by the authors of United Nations reports or resolutions on any other dispute in which the Organization had been involved. When seeking to arrive at a peaceful settlement, the first principle was to listen to and understand the many explanations of and views on the dispute in question.

106. Although Canada did not support the continuation of settlement activity, which was not conducive to a two-State solution, the matter must be approached in a truthful, fact-based way. The principle that no State, individual or organization was above the law, beyond scrutiny or criticism, or able to act with impunity was essential to resolving a conflict that had been at the forefront of the work of the Organization since 1945, before Israel had become a Member State. Research and reporting on the matter must not lead to the simple conclusion that one State was solely responsible for the situation in the region. Such a conclusion defied credibility, and the Organization must admit, following the example of many countries in the region, that a different approach was needed.

107. **Mr. Elizondo Belden** (Mexico) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the resolution because of the importance of the matter under consideration, which required the attention of the international community. However, the practice of introducing draft resolutions without holding open, transparent and inclusive consultations was a harmful precedent for the work of the Organization. In examining the consequences of the Israeli occupation, the Council must consider all the available data and evidence in order to make recommendations that were relevant, appropriate and in line with its mandate. All documents introduced in the Council must be based on equitable consultations among all the members, which must be given sufficient time to examine the proposals, in accordance with the principle of the legal equality of States. A dialogue among all the parties would be more fruitful than the complete absence of dialogue on the resolution just adopted. Consistency was essential to arriving at agreements, because consensus was never reached automatically and required the collective efforts of the entire Council. In future, the sponsors should follow a process that complied with those characteristics.

108. **Mr. Schaare** (New Zealand) said that New Zealand supported the resolution, which was consistent

with its long-held policy on Israeli-Palestinian issues. New Zealand shared the concerns expressed in the resolution about social and economic conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Its support for the resolution was without prejudice to its long-standing policy on recognition.

109. **Ms. Abdelhady-Nasser** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that her delegation greatly appreciated Member States' support for the resolution, which reflected undeniable facts attested to in the note by the Secretary-General containing the ESCWA report. It was grateful for Member States' affirmations of positions of principle and expressions of solidarity with the Palestinian people; serious and responsible efforts should be made to uphold those positions, including through genuine measures of accountability for the human rights violations and war crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, with contempt for the United Nations and the international community as a whole.

110. It was regrettable that the Council had been subjected to the vitriol of the representative of Israel, who had shown no regard for the sovereign right of every delegation to vote according to its conscience, on the basis of the principles, obligations and commitments shared by members and observers pursuant to international law and countless United Nations resolutions. In his toxic comments, the representative of Israel had not once referred to the Israeli occupation; it was for assistance in ending that illegal, unjust and abhorrent 55-year occupation that her delegation turned to the international community year after year.

111. The State of Palestine stood ready to fulfil its responsibilities to its people and its obligations under international law, but would not consent to be demeaned, dehumanized or blamed for the injustice that its people had endured for 75 years, since the General Assembly had decided in November 1947 to partition historic Palestine. The State of Palestine would relentlessly seek to redress that injustice in order to uphold the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and freedom, and all its other human rights.

Draft resolution E/2022/L.18: Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

112. **Ms. Majeed** (Observer for Pakistan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the draft resolution 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.

113. Limited but significant additions had been made to the draft resolution in order to address women's engagement in the political and social spheres and ensure that they were afforded the protection to which they were entitled, in particular women leaders and women active in the public sphere, civil society actors, and journalists, especially in the context of the horrific killing of Ms. Abu Akleh, a household name in Palestine and the Arab world, who had dedicated her life to shedding light on the suffering and struggle of her people and giving voice to the voiceless, speaking on behalf of victims until the day on which she had become one of them. The draft resolution stressed the need to ensure accountability promptly in that regard.

114. 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, as well as discriminatory legislation, policies and actions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, that violated the human rights of the Palestinian people.

115. 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, and under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The draft resolution stressed the need to ensure accountability and end impunity.

116. The draft resolution also reaffirmed the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making, and stressed the importance of women's equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security. It welcomed the adoption by the Palestinian Government of a national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) as well as 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.

117. 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 its measures to improve the difficult conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families, including those living under Israeli occupation and Palestine refugees, as well as to continue to provide them with urgently needed assistance.

118. Her delegation looked forward to the adoption of the draft resolution, which addressed the obstacles faced by Palestinian women, recognized their rights, and identified the means and support necessary to uphold those rights in line with the repeated commitments of the United Nations to advance women's rights worldwide, and with international law.

119. **The President** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

120. **Ms. Shapir Ben Naftaly** (Israel) said that the draft resolution, like many others whose authors claimed to deal with aspects of Palestinian-Israeli relations, was unbalanced, politically motivated and factually disconnected. It was, once again, a use of the United Nations to promote a reductive and destructive political agenda, instead of adopting a constructive approach towards a better future for the women (and men) of the Middle East. In fact, it did nothing to help Palestinian women and girls to claim their equal rights. By targeting Israel, it served only as political manipulation aimed at avoiding any self-reflection by the Palestinians.

121. The annual reports of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women contained explicit evidence of gender-based discrimination in Palestinian society, including violence against women, discrimination in the workplace and in education, economic dependency, lack of access to justice and education, inequality in the laws of marriage, divorce and inheritance, and limited access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. None of those issues, however, were mentioned in the draft resolution, whose authors focused solely on Israel as the only obstacle to improving the status of Palestinian women and girls. The reality was quite different. It was a reality of a deeply rooted male-dominated culture in which the participation of women and girls in the public sphere was limited, and in which social norms often dictated that the education of boys was given priority over that of girls. The disparity between men's and women's participation in the labour market was enormous. Another cause for concern was that one in seven Palestinian girls was forced to marry by the age of 17. She asked whether that information was of any importance to the authors of the draft resolution. Those disparities and limitations were to be dealt with within

Palestinian society. As long as critical attention was not drawn to the situation, it would not change.

122. Women and girls in Gaza were ruled by the regressive and repressive terrorist organization Hamas; 40 per cent of them lived under conditions that were even worse than those of other Palestinian women and girls. Unsurprisingly, however, the authors of the draft resolution preferred to condemn Israel rather than Hamas.

123. The draft resolution was the only resolution on the status of women that was not global, but was instead focused on a specific group. Delegations that supported the draft resolution would send a message to women in difficult places around the world who lacked any rights and suffered from a deteriorating situation in terms of education, health and the most basic protections. The message would be that such women did not deserve the attention received by others. That situation was yet another example of the ways in which the Palestinians exploited and politicized resolutions at the expense of those who were in dire need of the Organization's resources.

124. In considering the draft resolution, delegations should ask themselves whether its adoption would bring Palestinian women any closer to dignity, safety and equality, or whether it would in fact prevent any improvement, as its authors had clearly avoided focusing on the real changes needed within Palestinian society and culture. Perhaps by acknowledging the damage the draft resolution did to the cause of gender equality and the empowerment of Palestinian women, the Council could better serve the future of Palestinian women and girls. Israel called for a vote on the draft resolution, which it would vote against. It encouraged those who valued the safety, dignity and equality of Palestinian women to do likewise.

125. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/2022/L.18.*

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Libya, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Thailand, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Czechia, Israel, Liberia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Austria, Croatia, Guatemala, Solomon Islands.

126. The draft resolution was adopted by 40 votes to 6, with 4 abstentions.

127. **Mr. Gibbon** (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom was committed to advancing gender equality both domestically and internationally, but could not accept the singling-out of one country, namely, Israel, in the only geographically specific resolution with the Commission on the Status of Women.

128. **Mr. Elizondo Belden** (Mexico) said that Mexico had a feminist foreign policy and stood in full solidarity with Palestinian women. It had therefore voted in favour of the resolution, which, however, could have been improved in many ways. The resolution's authors had failed to recognize women in all their diversity, which limited the public policies that could result from the exercise. In addition, the actions of all those involved in gender equality on the ground, negative social norms, and challenges in access to sexual and reproductive health were not addressed in the resolution.

129. The pandemic had disproportionately affected women and girls worldwide. Although Palestinian women were no exception, the resolution would have benefited from broader discussion, for example in the Commission on the Status of Women. If it had been possible to hold open, transparent and inclusive consultations, the Council could have gathered more complete information, provided by Governments and other United Nations agencies and programmes, to ensure that its decisions were based on data and evidence. Consistency was essential to arriving at agreements; Palestinian women deserved to benefit from the governmental agreements that had improved gender equality elsewhere in the world. In future, the sponsors should follow a process that complied with those characteristics.

130. **Mr. Rae** (Canada) said that Canada had voted against the resolution, although it had an active mission in Ramallah, and positive relationships on the ground with many NGOs and the Palestinian Authority in advancing the interests of women. It made financial contributions to support Palestinian women's human and civil rights. Canada was unable to support the resolution, in which only one country, namely, Israel,

was held responsible for discrimination against Palestinian women, and which therefore lacked credibility.

131. Canada was committed to advancing the human rights of Palestinian people through its work with the Palestinian Authority and NGOs that promoted the interests of women in the Palestinian territory. It was regrettable that Canada did not have the same relationship with Hamas, which, in its charter, had adopted such extremist positions as refusing to recognize the right of Israel to exist. If those positions changed, Canada would provide further assistance in Gaza; its support to the Palestine refugee communities throughout the Middle East was already substantial. No one, including the State of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, individuals, NGOs and organizations such as Hamas, was above the law or could act with impunity.

132. Through a feminist international assistance policy, Canada sought to eradicate poverty and build a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world. Promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls was the most effective way to achieve that goal. Canada was committed to improving the lives of Palestinian women through gender-responsive development and humanitarian assistance, and was resolute in its efforts to improve the situation of women in conflict by implementing the women and peace and security agenda. It welcomed efforts to address the situation of women and girls worldwide, but was of the view that the obligations and responsibilities of all parties to the long-running Israeli-Palestinian conflict were not addressed fairly and constructively in the resolution, in which only one party was singled out as being responsible for the discrimination faced by Palestinian women.

133. Canada advocated a fair-minded approach and rejected one-sided resolutions. It supported a two-State solution to the underlying conflict in the region; it firmly believed in the human rights and right to self-determination of Palestinians, and the right of Israelis to live with dignity and security, without fear and with their human rights respected. Canada would support constructive efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, and would deal respectfully with the Palestinian delegation at the United Nations, the State of Israel and the Secretariat, even when it disagreed with them from time to time.

134. **Mr. Schaare** (New Zealand) said that New Zealand supported the resolution, which was consistent with its long-held policy on Israeli-Palestinian issues. New Zealand shared the concerns expressed in the

resolution about social and economic conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Its support for the resolution was without prejudice to its long-standing policy on recognition.

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

(d) Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (E/2022/59; E/2022/L.19)

135. **Mr. Obermeyer** (Director, New York Office of the World Health Organization (WHO)), introducing the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director General of WHO on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (E/2022/59), said that the COVID-19 pandemic continued to negatively impact progress on non-communicable diseases and mental health; 37 per cent of countries reported complete or partial disruption of services for the management of hypertension and diabetes, 30 per cent for asthma services and cancer treatment, and 22 per cent for cardiovascular emergencies. Hypertension still caused almost a third of all deaths worldwide, but only half of cases were diagnosed and less than half of those were treated. The pandemic had led to massive increases in the rates of depression and anxiety disorders.

136. As directed by the Council, the Task Force was committed to country-level action. In the report, the Director General of WHO described the Task Force's work over the past year in many Member States. The work included joint programming missions; missions that had focused on specific areas, for example the harmful use of alcohol; and investment cases related to non-communicable disease and mental health. A total of 30 such investment cases, which helped to strengthen governance and financing, had been undertaken since 2016, and countries were implementing the related recommendations.

137. European Union funds had enabled the Task Force to extend its presence in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific in order to support fiscal, legislative and regulatory measures, improve policy coherence across government and partners, and strengthen capacity.

138. The lessons learned from the Task Force's work were that tools developed at the global level to strengthen governance, financing and action needed to be adjusted to the country context; that relatively low levels of support could catalyse action; that continuity of support was critical to sustaining the impact of the

work; that multisectoral engagement was required to prevent and control non-communicable diseases; that responding to the COVID-19 pandemic was a competing priority, and additional support was needed to ensure that non-communicable diseases and mental health were part of pandemic preparedness and response plans; and that close collaboration among United Nations agencies was required.

139. The non-communicable disease and mental health multi-partner trust fund had been established in 2021 by WHO, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, with Kenya, Thailand and Uruguay as founding strategic partners, in order to respond to those lessons, and to enable Governments and their partners to address national priorities, expand access to treatment, strengthen prevention over the life course, enhance policies and legislation, and modernize health systems through digital solutions.

140. The Task Force supported the leveraging of resources through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by incorporating non-communicable diseases and mental health conditions into countries' requests to the Fund, in line with the Fund's 2015 policy on co-infections and co-morbidities and the vision for people-centred quality services articulated in the Fund's strategy for 2023–2028.

141. The Task Force's strategy for 2022–2025 focused on supporting the achievement of sustainable development targets and goals related to non-communicable diseases and mental health, mobilizing resources to help countries to meet those targets and goals, and harmonizing action and forging cross-sectoral partnerships. The Task Force was grateful for the funding received from its partners, including the European Union, the Gulf Council of Health Ministries, Italy and the Russian Federation. No Member State was on track to meet global commitments related to non-communicable diseases and mental health, and COVID-19 had made the challenge worse. Business as usual was therefore not an option.

Draft decision E/2022/L.19: United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

142. **The President** said that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

143. *Draft decision E/2022/L.19 was adopted.*

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

(h) Geospatial information (*continued*) (E/2022/68; E/2022/L.26)

Draft resolution E/2022/L.26: Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements

144. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council), reading out a statement of programme budget implications in connection with draft resolution E/2022/L.26 in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, said that, under the terms of paragraphs 6 and 7 of the draft resolution, the Council would decide to enhance the institutional arrangements of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management as a subsidiary body of the Council in charge of all matters related to geospatial information, geography, land administration and related topics, in accordance with the terms of reference in the annex to the resolution. The Council would also decide to strengthen the work of the Committee and request the Secretary-General, in the context of his next budget proposal, to identify options to do so, within existing resources, including the establishment of a secretariat for the Committee, dedicated to the Committee's normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management. In order to implement the requests contained in the draft resolution, and with reference to the related conclusions and recommendations in the report of the Committee on enhancing global geospatial information management (E/2022/68, annex), which would be noted by the Council, additional recurrent resources would be required under section 9, Economic and social affairs, and section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget, with effect from 2024.

145. Pursuant to paragraph 8, under which the Council would confirm the inclusion of the annual session of the Committee within the regular United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings under the Council, inclusive of provision of dedicated United Nations conference management services, interpretation and full support for the annual session of the Committee within existing resources, the Secretariat understood that the provision for conference services implied the continuation of existing requirements. Therefore, in accordance with the existing arrangement whereby interpretation was provided during the low-activity periods, inclusive of dedicated conference management services during those periods on an "as available" basis, the annual sessions of the Committee would continue to

be provided with such services. Similarly, the existing level of support in translation would continue to be provided. Specifically, as indicated every year in the note by the Secretariat on the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations, the latest for 2022 dated 7 February 2022 (A/AC.172/2022/2), in accordance with the relevant oral statement of programme budget implications issued when the Committee had been established in 2011, the Committee could hold its annual session in New York only during the low-activity periods, namely, in early January or August. If an annual session was held outside the low-activity periods in New York, interpretation services could be provided only on an “as available” basis. Any additional meetings would likewise be provided with interpretation services on an “as available” basis.

146. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs would need to undertake substantial activities in order to support the Committee’s global architecture and normative and implementation work on global geospatial information management, including implementing the recommendations of the report of the Committee (E/2022/68, annex), the 2030 Agenda and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. The requested secretariat for the Committee would therefore service and support the Committee’s high-level group, subcommittee, and expert and working groups; manage and support the global United Nations global geospatial information management architecture, including its five regional committees and four thematic groups; support the sustainable implementation of the Committee’s consensus-based global geospatial strategic frameworks, guides, methods, standards, and norms; implement and monitor extrabudgetary capacity and capability development projects to strengthen national geospatial information arrangements; coordinate and implement external technical cooperation and capacity development partnerships; promote coherence, coordination and cooperation on global geospatial information management-related issues; and support the establishment and oversight of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, and the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany.

147. The requirements arising from the additional mandate would include post and non-post resources estimated at \$658,900 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2024. It was estimated that seven additional regular budget posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 P-2 and 1 General

Service) amounting to \$634,500 would be required for the Global Geospatial Information Management Section. In addition, non-post requirements estimated at \$24,400 from the regular budget would be required to support the expanded mandates of the secretariat of the Committee. The additional resources, plus the staff assessment, were estimated at \$732,100 for 2024. Should the Council adopt draft resolution E/2022/L.26, the additional resource requirements would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2024, under section 9, Economic and social affairs, and section 36, Staff assessment.

148. With regard to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution, the attention of the Council was drawn to section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 76/245, in which the Assembly had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters.

149. The following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Australia, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Samoa, Slovakia and Switzerland.

150. Reading out an oral revision, she said that, in the second sentence of paragraph 3 of the terms of reference of the Committee, contained in the annex to the draft resolution, the phrase “observers of the General Assembly,” should be inserted before the phrase “academia and industry”.

151. *Draft resolution E/2022/L.26, as orally revised, was adopted.*

152. **Ms. Korac** (United States of America) said that the United States supported the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the field of global geospatial information management but was disappointed that, although the Council had requested the Secretary-General to implement the resolution within existing resources, the Department had decided to request additional resources. The United States was concerned about the Department’s inability to implement the resolution within existing resources, especially as the Department had had 78 vacant posts, including 11 in the Statistics Division, as recently as October 2021. Although decisions on resource implications were a matter for the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, the Department should reallocate

its existing vacant posts to global geospatial information management in its 2024 budget proposal. The United States commended the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management on its flexibility in providing conference services within existing resources to implement the resolution.

153. **Mr. Nakagawa** (Japan) said that his delegation recognized the importance of strengthening the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and had joined the consensus on the resolution. However, it had concerns about the process of the discussions on the matter. A thorough discussion should have been held among Member States on how to strengthen the functions of the Committee under the Council, with clear clarifications from the Secretariat, after the zero draft had been circulated at the end of the previous month. The two informal meetings held by the Council, at which the zero draft had been discussed only once, had been insufficient, and no informal meetings or discussions had been held among Member States between when the final draft was shared and when it was placed under a silence procedure (no-objection procedure). The details of the resolution, including the establishment of a secretariat for the Committee, should have been discussed in an open, inclusive, participatory and transparent manner. His delegation requested the Secretariat to provide further explanation and to allow opportunities for discussion among Member States before the process of drafting the proposed programme budget for 2024.

154. **Ms. Andersen** (Denmark), speaking also on behalf of Belgium, Czechia, Finland, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland, said that those delegations welcomed the adoption of the resolution. They recognized the global role of the Committee and the importance of its work in support of national geospatial information management implementation and many United Nations initiatives, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. During the informal consultations on the resolution, Member States had strongly supported the request for additional resources for the Committee. The nine delegations therefore welcomed the request to establish a secretariat for the Committee, within existing resources, but would have welcomed additional support for meetings within the regular calendar, more translation support and the coverage of travel costs.

155. In the resolution, the Council had decided to strengthen the work of the Committee and had requested the Secretary-General, in the context of his next budget

proposal, to identify options to do so, within existing resources. The requested budget, in the assessment of the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division, was relatively modest; the nine delegations trusted that the amount would be absorbed within existing resources. They welcomed the Council's decision to formalize the secretariat services provided to the Committee by requesting the Secretary-General to establish a Committee secretariat. With those additional comments, they supported the resolution.

156. **Mr. Sowah** (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom welcomed the adoption of the resolution. It supported the important work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in global geospatial information management and the Department's efforts to enhance the work and strengthen the functions of the Committee, but was concerned about the Department's request for additional resources to fund the implementation of the resolution, despite the Council's request for the Secretary-General to implement the resolution within existing resources. The United Kingdom welcomed the flexibility of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in implementing the resolution within existing resources, and encouraged the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to consider ways of doing likewise.

157. **Ms. Tran** (Canada) said that Canada supported the work of the Committee and welcomed the adoption of the resolution, but called for the resolution to be implemented within existing resources.

Agenda item 7: Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (*continued*) (E/2022/L.29)

Draft resolution E/2022/L.29: Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

158. **The President** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

159. *Draft resolution E/2022/L.29 was adopted.*

160. **Ms. Pringle** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, said that the transparent, accountable, efficient and responsive functioning of the United Nations development system was of great importance to those delegations. Given the insufficient global progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the

Sustainable Development Goals, and the ongoing reform of the system, Member States had a responsibility to provide the system with guidance. The five delegations welcomed the discussions on the matter during the operational activities for development segment. While they had joined the consensus on the resolution, it was regrettable that the extremely truncated time frame had not allowed for substantive negotiations. The resolution did not take into account the wide-ranging discussions held during the operational activities for development segment or provide the United Nations development system with updated guidance. That process could not be allowed to set a precedent. The five delegations looked forward to engaging with other delegations in the Second Committee, at the next main session of the General Assembly, on the resolution on operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in order to seize the opportunity that had been missed in the Council.

161. **Ms. Majeed** (Observer for Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, as programme countries, the Group's members relied to varying degrees on the support of the United Nations development system in order to follow their national development priorities, and to implement the 2030 Agenda and other development frameworks. The Group was therefore committed to the repositioned United Nations development system and its reinvigorated resident coordinator system. The Group appreciated the documents prepared for the Council's consideration at the operational activities for development segment, but emphasized that reports needed to be issued in a timely manner to facilitate meaningful discussions at the segment and on the resolution.

162. The Group was concerned about the funding of the resident coordinator system, particularly given the financial shortfalls in the system's budget since it had started to function. The Group therefore appreciated the reference in the resolution to the need for adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of the system. However, the Group was disappointed by other delegations' unwillingness to accept a mere mention of the updates with which the Council had been provided on the funding compact. The international community must be consistent in its approach to the United Nations development system as a whole, particularly at a time when recent cuts in core allocations for development, as well as the pervasive imbalance between core and non-core resources, were threatening the long-term viability of the development pillar.

163. The eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions must remain the overarching objective of the United Nations development system. Development itself must remain the focus, bearing in mind the different development levels and realities on the ground in all developing countries. National ownership and leadership in all matters relating to the repositioning of the system was critical to the delivery of effective results. Such ownership included effective and timely reporting by resident coordinators and United Nations country teams to host Governments. The delicate balance achieved in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review must be maintained and the mandates set by the General Assembly in its resolution [75/233](#) must be fully implemented by the United Nations development system.

Conclusion of the 2022 session of the Council

164. **The President** declared that the Council had concluded its July management segment and its 2022 session.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.