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President: Ms. Narváez Ojeda (Vice-President) (Chile)

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In the absence of Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria), Ms. Narváez Ojeda (Chile), Vice-President, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (continued)

(e) Population and development (E/2023/25)

1. **Mr. Leucă** (Chair of the Commission on Population and Development), introducing the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-sixth session (E/2023/25), said that the theme of the Commission's session had been "Population, Education and Sustainable Development". Although there had not been a consensus on a draft resolution on that theme, the new evidence and fresh insights gained would still be extremely useful in preparing for the high-level political forum on sustainable development and in negotiating the outcome document of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit. Through the high-level opening of the session, general debate and four interactive and multi-stakeholder panels, the Commission had discussed the critical role of education in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the challenges of meeting Goal 4 by 2030.

2. There had been 10 key findings of the Commission. First, realizing the right to education contributed to the achievement of the Goals, the promotion of human rights and gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the eradication of poverty.

3. Second, education promoted equal opportunities for all young people to participate in decision-making and all other spheres of life.

4. Third, access to inclusive, equitable and quality education and digital literacy were critical to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

5. Fourth, lifelong learning was essential for effective participation in knowledge, societies and economies.

6. Fifth, despite considerable progress in education access and participation, 244 million children and youth aged 6 to 17 had still been out of school in 2021; at the end of 2019, more than half of children and young people in school had not met minimum proficiency standards in reading and numeracy; nearly two thirds of the world's non-literate adults were women; and girls were still more likely than boys to remain excluded from primary and lower secondary education.

7. Sixth, Governments needed to provide increased support to teachers and education personnel; to invest in education infrastructure and in the recruitment, training and retention of qualified teachers; to scale up investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and to enhance the emergency preparedness and response capacity of education systems.

8. Seventh, remedial and accelerated learning and catch-up strategies urgently needed to be scaled up.

9. Eighth, quality health education and literacy should be promoted among young people, and universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights should be ensured.

10. Ninth, improving education outcomes played a role in the integration of migrants into host societies and there needed to be investment in skill development and recognition of the skills, qualifications and competence of migrant workers.

11. Tenth, international cooperation was important in supporting developing countries to realize the full potential of education for sustainable development.

Actions on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-sixth session (E/2023/25)

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

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its fifty-sixth session and provisional agenda for its fifty-seventh session

Draft decision II: Timing of the consideration of the report on world demographic trends

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

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

(d) Narcotic drugs (continued) (E/2023/28 and E/INCB/2022/1)

14. **Mr. Ruiz Blanco** (Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs), speaking via video link and introducing the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-sixth session (E/2023/28), said that over 2,500 participants representing 139 Member States, six United Nations entities, 19 intergovernmental organizations and 134 non-governmental organizations had taken part in the session. At the margins of the session, 155 side events and 27 exhibitions had been organized. The numbers of overall participation and side

events had grown each year, reflecting the importance of the Commission as a forum for discussing all aspects of the world drug problem. The Commission had adopted resolutions on preparations for the 2024 midterm review of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments under the multi-year workplan adopted in 2019; on the safe handling and disposal of synthetic drugs, their precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs; on strengthening information sharing to increase scientific evidence-based support to international scheduling; and on promoting alternative development as a sustainable and inclusive drug control strategy. All resolutions were linked directly to the Sustainable Development Goals. A fifth resolution on the expansion of the use of uncrewed aircraft systems in countering drug crime had been submitted but later withdrawn. The Commission had also added new substances to the schedules of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

15. A two-day high-level segment would be convened for the midterm review, in addition to the five-day regular 2024 session, and would consist of a general debate and two multi-stakeholder roundtables, entitled “Taking stock: work undertaken since 2019” and “The way forward: the road to 2029”. The Commission had agreed to work towards adopting a concise, action-oriented outcome document of the review. There would also be a non-negotiated Co-Chair’s summary for each of the two round tables. In 2023, the Commission’s thematic discussions would focus on taking stock of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments since the adoption of the multi-year workplan in 2019 and would be the main substantive mechanism to prepare for the 2024 midterm review.

16. There would be in-person meetings of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies and of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, to gather national experts and to foster an interactive discussion on the salient policy and enforcement issues in their regions and on recommendations to address those issues.

17. The Commission had provided substantive written input to the 2023 high-level political forum, including recommendations to coordinate multidisciplinary efforts to ensure that no one affected by the world drug problem would be left behind in the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and to accelerate the implementation of all international drug policy commitments. The Commission would organize, together with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, an event at the margins of the forum

and also aimed to contribute to the preparatory process for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to be held in September 2023; it hoped to see the world drug problem and its links to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reflected in the Summit declaration.

18. Member States were invited to commemorate the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at an intersessional event to be held by the Commission on 26 June 2023. At the event, the *World Drug Report 2023* would be launched, presenting an overview of the current trends on global drug markets and the latest information on drug use, production and trafficking.

19. **Mr. Toufiq** (President of the International Narcotics Control Board), introducing the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2022 (E/INCB/2022/1), said that the thematic chapter of the report analysed the trend in the legalization of cannabis for non-medical purposes, which was contrary to conventions on drug control. Cannabis legalization for non-medical purposes reduced perceptions of harm associated with cannabis use; the high potency of cannabis products threatened the health of young people and products were often packaged to appeal to children. Cannabis legalization was often presented as a solution to overincarceration or illicit drug markets and related violence, but the drug control conventions provided for minor drug-related offences to be addressed through alternatives to incarceration. The Board was committed to ongoing dialogues with the Member States concerned in order to improve the implementation of the conventions and to safeguard health and well-being.

20. The report also showed how a surge in illicit coca bush cultivation and cocaine production and trafficking had led to increased availability and use of high purity cocaine. The Board was working with Member States to prevent trafficking of chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of cocaine and other drugs and to identify solutions to the rapid diversification of such chemicals. The Board also called upon the international community to help tackle illicit opium poppy cultivation, opium production and the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, especially in Afghanistan.

21. The Global Rapid Interdiction of Dangerous Substances (GRIDS) Programme supported Governments in tackling trafficking in fentanyl and other non-medical synthetic opioids in Africa, Asia and the Americas. The Board also urged Governments to develop national systems to collect data on drug use and treatment demand and to engage in bilateral assistance in that connection, especially in Africa.

22. In most countries, controlled narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes had limited or no availability, yet, in some countries, they were excessively available and overprescribed. Data from Member States and civil society had shown that some progress had been made but more needed to be done. The Board's learning programme was building the capacity of national authorities to make those substances affordable, to improve the accuracy of national estimates of licit requirements, to improve training and awareness among health professionals and to make legislative, regulatory and administrative changes. The Board also called for Governments to use simplified procedures to expedite the national trade and provision of controlled medicines during crises.

Actions on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its sixty-sixth session (E/2023/28)

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

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

Draft decision II: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

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

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (continued)

(b) Science and technology for development (E/2023/31)

25. **Ms. Amoroso das Neves** (Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development), introducing the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-sixth session (E/2023/31), said that the session had been attended by over 1,600 participants, including more than 20 ministerial representatives.

26. During a ministerial round table on the theme of the 2023 high level political forum, the Commission had focused on the role of science, technology and innovation in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges faced in harnessing science, technology and innovation to implement the 2030 Agenda. The Commission had called for countries to integrate science, technology and innovation into their plans for national development and for achieving the

Sustainable Development Goals. During the session, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) had also presented its *Technology and Innovation Report 2023*.

27. During discussions on the priority theme of "Ensuring safe water for all: a solution through science, technology and innovation", the Commission had recognized the need to ensure long-term water resource planning and integrated water resource management, to reduce market entry risks, to foster partnerships with non-governmental organizations and to prepare for emergency situations. It had also called on Governments to design and implement policies for scaling up water and sanitation management with a gender dimension.

28. Under the second priority theme of "Technology and innovation for cleaner, more productive and competitive production", the Commission had explored the opportunities presented by rapid technological developments. It had urged Governments to establish national mechanisms for the coordination and promotion of clean technology diffusion, so as to address the large variations between countries in capacity for adopting green technologies.

29. The review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society had confirmed the cross-cutting contribution of information and communication technologies to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication. The Commission stressed the need for transparent and inclusive discussions on digital cooperation across the United Nations and for international partnerships and the involvement of all sectors of society in ensuring successful digital transformation. Science, technology and innovation policy reviews had been carried out for Botswana and Angola. The Commission had also undertaken capacity-building activities to strengthen South-South and North-South cooperation.

30. The twenty-seventh session of the Commission would take place between 18 and 22 March 2024 and would explore the priority themes of "Data for development" and "Global cooperation in science, technology and innovation for development, including digital cooperation". An intersessional event would also take place on 6 and 7 November 2023.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its twenty-sixth session (E/2023/31)

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

Section A

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

Draft resolution II: Science, technology and innovation for development

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

Section B

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

33. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Agenda item 10: The role of the United Nations system in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/2023/66 and A/78/74-E/2023/67)

Agenda item 13: Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B, 60/265, 61/16, 67/290, 68/1, 72/305 and 75/290 A and B

34. **Mr. Ferrero de Loma-Osorio** (Chair of the Committee on World Food Security), introducing the report on the main decisions, outcomes and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security, transmitted in a note by the Secretary-General (E/2023/67), said that 25 Ministers, representatives of 129 Member States and 13 non-Member States and delegates from the United Nations system, financial institutions, civil society, research organizations, private sector organizations and philanthropic foundations had taken part in the fiftieth session of the Committee.

35. The Committee had expressed deep concern over the global food crisis and its disproportionate impact on groups such as persons with disabilities, small-scale food producers, women and those living in vulnerable situations. In preparing for a ministerial segment on coordinating policy response to the crisis, to be held at the fifty-first session of the Committee, particular attention had therefore been paid to the surge and volatility in international food commodity prices, the increase in fertilizer prices and shortages, and the rise in energy and fuel prices. In the light of geopolitical instability and increasing conflicts, which undermined

food security and nutrition and negatively impacted agrifood systems, the Committee had reaffirmed its commitment to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. A high-level event had also been held jointly by the Committee and the President of the General Assembly on coordinating global policy responses to the food crisis.

36. The Committee had endorsed new policy recommendations on promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems, which could be used as resources for shaping national policies, investment plans, legislation and development programmes that included young people. The Committee was also close to concluding work on its Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition, with adoption expected at the Committee's upcoming fifty-first session. A series of recommendations would also be developed following a policy convergence process that had taken place on strengthening food security and nutrition data collection and analysis tools.

37. The Committee had begun deliberations for a multi-year programme of work for the period 2024–2027. It had also discussed how to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 2 by boosting responsible investment in sustainable agrifood systems and building on the Committee's Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

38. **Ms. Oenema** (Executive Secretary of UN-Nutrition), introducing the report on UN-Nutrition, transmitted in a note by the Secretary-General (E/2023/66), said that the world was moving backwards in its efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Access to adequate food was a fundamental human right, yet the persistence of war, the high cost of nutritious foods, growing inequalities and the worsening crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution threatened people's capacity to adequately nourish themselves and their families, with the most vulnerable groups disproportionately affected.

39. Food for healthy diets, which were essential in protecting health and preventing disease, needed to be sustainably produced, available and affordable in order to realize the right to adequate food. Healthy diets from sustainable agrifood systems should be provided, even when addressing hunger and malnutrition in crises and fragile contexts. Governments needed coherent support from the United Nations in order to take a coherent approach to nutrition that spanned disaster risk

reduction, early warnings, humanitarian response, long-term development and work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

40. The UN-Nutrition Strategy 2022–2030 had been launched on Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security 2022 and outlined how to act collectively and show thought leadership for nutrition. An assessment of United Nations coordination across countries by UN-Nutrition had found that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization were the entities that participated in country-level collaborations most frequently and that better coordination was found in countries where the resident coordinator or humanitarian coordinator was actively engaged in issues of nutrition. UN-Nutrition had produced and piloted specific guidance on mainstreaming and improving coordination on nutrition.

41. With the support of Irish Aid, the Fostering ‘One UN’ project had supported nutrition policy in Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Liberia, Myanmar, the Niger, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe; resident coordinators had been involved in all those countries. UN-Nutrition had also actively engaged in the Scaling Up Nutrition movement throughout 2022. In that work, there had been priority workstreams for promoting healthy diets from sustainable food systems, fostering private sector engagement in nutrition, addressing nutrition in crises and fragile contexts and accelerating coordinated work on globally agreed malnutrition targets.

42. In May 2022, the Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All had been launched, bringing together Member States, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to position health, nutrition and environmental sustainability as foundations for agrifood systems transformation. UN-Nutrition had disseminated a discussion paper on nutrition and the environment at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and it had been engaged in an initiative led by the Government of Egypt to ensure that nutrition was mainstreamed in nationally determined contributions and other climate policy action.

43. Key areas for the future work of UN-Nutrition included providing support for the follow-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit and advancing the food and nutrition agenda at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In

preparation for the United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment in July 2023, UN-Nutrition and the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub had gathered insights on how to strengthen synergies to ensure positive outcomes of agrifood systems.

44. **Mr. Cimino** (Italy) said that his country encouraged the Committee on World Food Security and UN-Nutrition to continue working to maximize their measurable impact and to work in full synergy with all relevant United Nations actors, Governments and stakeholders. Food security and nutrition required the coordinated contribution of all actors and should continue to be a priority area in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and operational country programmes.

45. Italy encouraged all Member States and entities of the United Nations system to engage at the highest level in the United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment, to be held in Rome, and contribute to its success, which would inform the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2023.

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

(f) Public administration and development (E/2023/44)

46. **Ms. Fraser-Moleketi** (Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration), speaking via video link and introducing the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twenty-second session (E/2023/44), said that the session’s agenda had focused on urgently transforming institutions for a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient world in a time of multiple crises. Transforming institutions at the speed and scale required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals required accelerated efforts to build capable States at all levels and in all relevant areas of government action.

47. Accelerating and deepening institutional integration could bring about transformative changes in governance and public policies in line with the 2030 Agenda; that integration needed to be compelling and action-oriented in order to galvanize stakeholders in support of lasting solutions and the bridging of social, economic and political divides.

48. Multiple simultaneous crises had undermined Governments’ resilience and capacity to address the root causes of complex challenges. An excessive focus on crisis management had led to the neglect of long-term thinking, risk management, use of best available

knowledge, stakeholder participation, promotion of collaborative mindsets among public sector workers and leveraging of public financial management mechanisms, all of which were essential to sustainable development. Reviewing public sector workforce capabilities to ensure citizen-centred and collaborative mindsets would contribute to building the agile, transparent and efficient data- and insight-driven institutions that were therefore needed. Governments also needed to implement inclusive models of participation and strengthen civic engagement.

49. The COVID-19 pandemic had accelerated the digital transition, revealed technological weaknesses in public administrations and exacerbated digital divides. National digital strategies and hybrid approaches to public service delivery needed to reflect people's needs and aspirations, build digital trust, bridge divides and respect human rights online. It was also necessary to make continuous efforts to anticipate and respond to the impact of technological advances, strengthen revenue forecasting and planning and ensure accountability, transparency and participation in budget processes.

50. Multidimensional coverage of the principles of effective governance could enhance policy analysis related to Sustainable Development Goal 16. Meanwhile, governance indicators should be sufficiently detailed and address important analytical gaps in review processes, including in voluntary national and local reviews. Countries needed expanded capacity for accessing climate finance and an increased focus on climate adaptation, and the Governments and subnational authorities of developing countries needed expanded support to analyse data and design climate projects that could attract investment. Institution-building and environmental management in peacebuilding in countries affected by conflict was also valuable.

51. The Committee had invited Guyana, Malaysia, Rwanda and Saudi Arabia and the cities of Barcelona and Buenos Aires to participate in the session in order to promote interaction on the institutional aspects of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 and had also held a dedicated consultation with observers.

Draft decision: Dates and provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

52. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Dates and provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration", contained in chapter I, section B, of

the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twenty-second session (E/2023/44).

53. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(I) Transport of dangerous goods (E/2023/56)

54. **Mr. Hubert** (Chief of the Dangerous Goods and Road Safety Management Section of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe), speaking via video link and introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (E/2023/56), said that part one of the report contained the draft resolution prepared by the Committee, which included new recommendations, the Committee's programme of work for 2023–2024 and a proposal to rename the Council's existing agenda sub-item "Transport of dangerous goods" as "Transport of dangerous goods and globally harmonized classification and labelling of chemicals" as of the 2025 session.

55. Part two of the report contained detailed information on the implementation of Council resolution 2021/13. As requested, the Secretary-General had published the twenty-second revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations, amendment 1 to the seventh revised edition of the Manual of Tests and Criteria and the ninth revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

56. The International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail and the Economic Commission for Europe had already initiated amendments to their respective legal instruments on the transport of dangerous goods to give effect to the recommended new provisions. Many countries had also updated their registration applicable to domestic and regional transport accordingly. The Committee urged the Secretary-General to collect more information from Member States about the status of implementation of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; little information was available for States that did not participate in the work of the Committee. The Secretary-General should also seek information from all Member States about the national competent authorities entitled to certify that a packaging design type met the United Nations construction and performance requirements.

57. More than 70 countries, including the major producers of chemical products and substances, had implemented or were working to implement the provisions of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. In 2021 and 2022, several countries had announced plans to align national standards or legislation with the system's provisions or to implement those provisions for the first time. The Southern Common Market and the Eurasian Economic Union had taken steps towards the regional implementation of the system's provisions and the European Union had continued to revise national and regional legal instruments to incorporate the regular updating of the system. International organizations and United Nations entities continued to develop and revise international instruments to give effect to the system. Implementation of the system would be considered in the development of a new overarching strategic approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste in support of the 2030 Agenda. Guidance, training and resource materials had continued to be updated in 2021 and 2022, along with several capacity-building activities or projects supported by Governments or the private sector.

58. Part three of the report provided information on the activities and accomplishments of the Committee in the biennium 2021–2022 and part four contained the programme of work for the Committee and its schedule of meetings for the biennium 2023–2024.

Draft resolution: Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

59. **The President** drew attention to the draft resolution entitled “Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals”, contained in chapter I of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts (E/2023/56).

60. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions

(f) Human rights (E/2023/22)

61. **Mr. Abdel-Moneim** (Chair of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), introducing the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions (E/2023/22), said that an overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations were party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social

and Cultural Rights and those rights were being increasingly integrated into international human rights law. It would nevertheless be gratifying to see more nations acceding to the Covenant. Of the 171 States parties to the Covenant, only a few had acceded to its Optional Protocol. Although those pioneering nations deserved recognition, others needed to approach the Optional Protocol with the same zeal with which it had been negotiated.

62. The Committee called upon those States that had not yet submitted reports due on the fulfilment of their obligations under the Covenant to do so. The Committee had done its best to relieve States parties from excessive reporting burdens and had proposed an eight-year reporting cycle to replace the four-year cycle even before it had been adopted at the meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies in 2022. Implementation of the new eight-year reporting cycle had progressed; to ensure the cycle's predictability, the situation of economic, social and cultural rights in a State party would be examined in a timely manner when an initial or periodic report or a midterm review of issues of immediate concern was due.

63. The Committee's working methods had been developed so as to optimize the use of time within the Committee's limited resources. Despite a number of constraints, the Committee was determined to adapt its working methods and harmonize them with those of the other human rights treaty bodies. The Committee would intensify its interactions with United Nations specialized agencies and all other subsidiary bodies of the Council.

64. During its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions, the Committee had examined the initial or periodic reports of 12 States parties, the majority of which were developing countries. He called upon the Governments of those countries to implement the Committee's recommendations. In that regard, he particularly emphasized the importance of the right to development, which was fundamental to world progress, and of international cooperation, which was both a right and an established obligation to be fulfilled.

65. In formulating its concluding observations to States parties and other relevant documents, the Committee had been fully aware of current global challenges, which threatened the erosion of the right to an adequate and dignified standard of living and of all other economic, social and cultural rights. For the sake of millions of people, there could be no derogation from the obligation of progressive fulfilment of the rights enshrined in the Covenant. The Committee's general comment No. 3 (1990) on the nature of States parties'

obligations under the Covenant was more important than ever and he called on the Council to consider international action to address the immediate effects and deep-rooted causes of the crisis.

66. The Committee's special responsibility to the work on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was reflected in all its activities and documents. It would continue to work closely with the Council and its other subsidiary bodies to strengthen national implementation of and investment in economic, social and cultural rights for global peace and stability, to achieve the Goals and to implement the 2030 Agenda.

67. **The President** said that she took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions, as contained in document [E/2023/22](#).

68. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 20: United Nations research and training institutes ([E/2023/57](#), [E/2023/58](#) and [E/2023/70](#); [E/2023/L.12](#), [E/2023/L.13](#) and [E/2023/L.17](#))

69. **Ms. McElwaine** (Chief Operations Officer of the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research), introducing the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University ([E/2023/57](#)), said that the work of UNU was guided by the Charter of the United Nations and encompassed issues across peace and security; social change and economic development; and environment, climate and energy. The University effectively bridged the expertise in academic communities and the policy needs of the United Nations, and its 13 research centres and offices contributed to solving the world's most pressing problems.

70. UNU connected diverse groups of international stakeholders to generate research and share it with a broad spectrum of target groups. It did so through by conducting innovative research and publishing reports related to the objectives of the United Nations and by convening events with policymakers and academics. It also highlighted policy-relevant research finding in formats that were most useful for policymakers and strengthened the capacities of researchers and Governments in developing countries.

71. The United Nations University Centre for Policy Research had served as Secretariat for the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, which was tasked with developing recommendations for strengthening the multilateral

system. The Board's final report had been submitted to the Secretary-General and would contribute to preparations for the 2024 Summit of the Future. The report illustrated the thought leadership that UNU could offer to the United Nations and the wider international community.

72. The World Institute for Development Economics Research conducted research and capacity-building to reduce income inequality and, in 2022, had hosted its flagship development conference in Bogotá, bringing together leading global scholars to discuss the latest research on reducing inequalities in income, education and health. The Institute also placed economic experts in tax and treasury departments of countries in the global South to help increase tax revenues and encourage inclusive economic growth. The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security had also released its flagship report on interconnected disaster risks, which focused on 10 global disasters to analyse the interconnected nature of solutions and to inform current multilateral conversations about global challenges.

73. A number of the activities of UNU had had a direct positive impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance was working with the Government of China and other partners to construct a national strategy for improving universal social protection coverage in China; the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability was mobilizing 32 Japanese universities to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; and the Gender and Health Policy Hub, coordinated by the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health, was reviewing the lessons learned from efforts to integrate gender in health across five United Nations organizations.

74. The University shared its findings freely with those who could benefit from them. The priorities of UNU over the coming period were to raise its profile globally; to expand its activities, particularly in the global South; and to increase its capacities in the spheres of research, teaching and policy work in the global South.

75. **Mr. Javan** (Director of the United Nations System Staff College), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations System Staff College ([E/2023/58](#)), said that the College played an essential role in fostering the knowledge needed to achieve shared priorities and delivered high-quality training and continuous learning to personnel of the United Nations

and partner entities. It had celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2022 and was helping to make the United Nations system more cohesive, results-oriented and cost-effective.

76. The College had been pivotal in providing the knowledge and skillsets to advance the United Nations development system reforms and internal management reforms by offering learning programmes, tailored solutions and advisory services. For example, it had played a major role in developing a primer on the Sustainable Development Goals for resident coordinators and others, which had reached over 6,000 people. The College had also delivered knowledge and skillsets to ensure a more coordinated, coherent and integrated peace architecture to prevent violence, end conflict and mitigate fragility. Many of its learning programmes were focused on supporting the Secretary-General's "quintet of change" by supporting staff capabilities in data, innovation, strategic foresight, behavioural science and results. As recommended by the Joint Inspection Unit, the College had reinforced its role as a central learning hub of the United Nations system by developing an ecosystem of learning management platforms; those platforms had saved money by allowing United Nations entities to pool learning resources and address capacity gaps in a coordinated manner. The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Twelfth progress report on accountability: strengthening accountability in the United Nations Secretariat" (A/77/692) had also recognized role of the College's capacity-building work in strengthening accountability within the United Nations system.

77. Knowledge and skills would be critical for the future results and effectiveness of the United Nations. Therefore, the College had strengthened its partnership with the Instituto De Empresa (IE) University in Spain by offering a master's degree in international development and had formed a number of other key academic partnerships to ensure that the United Nations system benefited from the latest ideas from leading institutions of higher education.

78. Since 2021, the College had delivered over 400 learning activities to almost 68,000 beneficiaries. It had reported strong financial results in that period and had been able to rely primarily on self-generated and cost-recovery resources. The College had also pursued a deliberate strategy of containing expenditures and had received voluntary contributions from Germany, Ireland, Italy and Sweden. Donor funding accounted for 27 per cent of the College's budget and course fees accounted for 73 per cent. With additional investments from Member States, even more could be achieved.

79. The College would continue to invest in its learning platforms and in research and development, including in artificial intelligence, which would enable the College to increase its analytical tools, strategic insights and learning advisory services. The College would improve the performance of United Nations personnel through orientation tools, tailored assessment instruments and mentoring and coaching and would soon offer digital microcredentials using blockchain technologies that were under development. To support the repositioning of the United Nations development system, the College would offer new and revamped programmes on results-based management, strategic foresights, systems thinking and equitable and sustainable finance. It would also become a leading provider of solutions for conflict sensitivity and analysis and a knowledge broker for inter-agency training on climate-related risk analysis and on climate sensitive approaches to peacebuilding.

80. **Mr. Suazo** (Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (E/2023/70), said that the scope of the Institute's programming had expanded to cover all the pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, economic development, social development and environmental sustainability. Its strategic framework was focused on the pillars of peace, people, planet and prosperity and on three cross-cutting areas, which included accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, multilateral diplomacy and optimizing the use of technologies for evidence-based decision-making. In 2022, building on its experience of hosting the secretariat of the Defeat Non-Communicable Diseases Partnership, UNITAR had established a division on non-communicable diseases, digital health and capacity-building to contribute to its objective of promoting health for all.

81. Under the peace pillar, UNITAR actively aligned its programming with Sustainable Development Goal 16 by organizing high-level events, providing predeployment training to peacekeeping personnel and partnering with peacekeeping training centres in Ghana, Mali and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Institute also empowered women to participate meaningfully in peace processes.

82. Under the people pillar, UNITAR promoted well-being and supported marginalized and vulnerable groups. It worked with government authorities and other stakeholders to reduce road traffic fatalities and injuries and had reached over 12,000 people through face-to-face training, workshops, online courses and public

awareness programmes. UNITAR collaborated with the Global Surgery Foundation on national surgical planning and offered an executive course on high-value surgical systems in partnership with the Harvard School of Public Health. It also hosted the International Training Centres for Authorities and Leaders Global Network, which had expanded to over 30 centres in the period 2021–2022.

83. Under the planet pillar, UNITAR supported the One United Nations Climate Change Learning Partnership by offering 50 courses on climate change and the transition to a green economy, from which 36 United Nations entities and multilateral organizations had benefited, and 200,000 certificates of completion had been issued as of December 2022. The Institute participated in the Partnership for Action on Green Economies, through which it supported 22 countries to develop inclusive green economies, and conducted research and training on the sustainable production, consumption and disposal of goods, through its Sustainable Cycles Programme. Under the prosperity pillar, the UNITAR Great Ideas Space initiative had trained 4,900 women and young people in addressing food insecurity and public health, and a digital finance initiative had been launched to foster discussions on the future of finance and its role in sustainable development.

84. The Institute continued to work with Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda through the Sustainable Development Goals learning platform. The New York office of UNITAR provided training on the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and had implemented two fellowship programmes for fellows from the least developed countries and small island developing States.

85. The Institute was entirely funded through voluntary contributions and remained in sound financial health; the board of trustees had approved a budget of \$83 million for the 2022–2023 programme, and the Leave No One Behind Fund had supported 68 projects. Nevertheless, UNITAR needed to strengthen its engagement with the United Nations system to mobilize additional support for the fund and ensure alignment with the 2030 Agenda. Member States and other stakeholders should provide full support for the Institute and contribute to the Fund.

86. **Ms. de Meo** (Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute), introducing the oral report of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, said that Italy had hosted the Institute for more than 50 years, providing it with much-needed stable foundation to

carry out action-oriented research and evidence-based programmes that furthered the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Addressing the oral report directly to the plenary was a milestone for the Institute; it had previously reported only through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which had limited its visibility within the Council. The Institute valued the opportunity to share insights from its extensive research and training in the field of crime prevention, justice and the rule of law, to feed those insights into broader United Nations systemwide processes and to demonstrate how it could support Member States through specialized research and tailor-made programmes. As an entity funded entirely through voluntary contributions, all the Institute's results were made possible by the support of its host country, donors and partners.

87. In 2022, the Institute had developed a new Strategic Programme Framework 2023–2026 through a comprehensive and inclusive process which had included consultations with Member States and stakeholders. The Framework was structured around five interconnected priorities related to justice and security and the three cross-cutting themes of youth, gender and climate change. The Institute had launched 11 new projects, released 24 research reports, led 45 training programmes and had conducted many expert-level workshops as part of its 30 ongoing programmes and projects. Its work contributed to Sustainable Development Goal 16 by preventing and countering crime, strengthening the rule of law and building safer and more resilient societies.

88. In March 2022, the Institute had facilitated the repatriation of several cultural artifacts that had been illegally removed from Libya. The endeavour, involving the work of several partners, had been a victory for Libya, international law enforcement and the rule of law. Nevertheless, the Institute's research showed that there was still an urgent need for international cooperation and innovative strategies to combat trafficking and smuggling and to protect cultural heritage.

89. Research conducted by the Institute in the Sahel had provided first-hand evidence of the role that climate change and the degradation of natural resources had in exacerbating local conflict and in recruitment narratives from violent extremist groups. The subsequent report defined guiding principles for how the United Nations system should take climate change into account when preventing and countering violent extremism.

90. The Institute's Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics had conducted research that illustrated

how to strike a balance between the demand for law enforcement to innovate and use new technologies in investigations of criminal activities, on the one hand, and the need to address human rights concerns raised by facial recognition technology, on the other. Alongside the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Institute would shortly release its Toolkit for Responsible Artificial Intelligence Innovation in Law Enforcement, defining principles and practical guidance that were compliant with human rights and ethics.

91. The Institute had recently launched a flagship Sustainable Development Goal 16 publication to highlight key trends and emerging issues from the perspective of crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law; the first edition would be released on the margins of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2023 and would focus on the digital divide and its impact on Goal 16.

92. **Mr. Greco** (Italy) said that learning was an indispensable tool for improving the quality and efficiency of the work of United Nations entities, enabling them to tackle complex global challenges and to face a quickly changing world. Italy was proud to host the United Nations System Staff College in Turin; the quality of the College's courses and the high recommendation rate of its learning products attested to the impressive work it had done. The College had greatly expanded its target audience to include civil society representatives, civil servants and university students, reinforcing its mission as a knowledge-sharing institution promoting the values of the United Nations within and beyond the system. The College's academic partnerships reinforced the high quality of its programmes and facilitated access to advanced educational and training experiences for United Nations staff. Continuous and effective learning made staff more adaptable to competitive and dynamic environments and enabled them to break down silos, create synergies and increase efficiency in the use of human and financial resources.

93. Member States should continuously provide operational and financial support to the work of the College, UNITAR, UNU and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. Such support was key to empowering those institutions to continue delivering first-rate learning to United Nations staff and partner entities, to expand their reach and to amplify the impact of the United Nations globally.

Draft resolution E/2023/L.12: United Nations System Staff College

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

95. *Draft resolution E/2023/L.12 was adopted.*

Draft resolution E/2023/L.17: United Nations Institute for Training and Research

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

97. *Draft resolution E/2023/L.17 was adopted.*

Draft resolution E/2023/L.13: United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

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

99. **Mr. Greco** (Italy) said that his country strongly supported the activities of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute; such support was integral to fighting criminal activities around the world. In recent years, the global profile of the Institute and its expertise had grown; the Institute provided crucial support to Member States and to national and international institutions by offering leading crime analysis programmes, tailor-made training opportunities and quality technical assistance.

100. The Institute's mandate was closely linked to Sustainable Development Goal 16 on the promotion of peace, justice and strong institutions. The draft resolution was both recognition of the work of the Institute and an appeal for Member States to support the Institute and take advantage of its technical assistance.

101. *Draft resolution E/2023/L.13 was adopted.*

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

(d) Environment

102. **The President** said that no advance documentation had been submitted under agenda item 18 (d) and no draft proposal was before the Council.

(m) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

103. **The President** said that no advance documentation had been submitted under agenda item 18 (m) and no draft proposal was before the Council.

Agenda item 17: Non-governmental organizations
(continued) (E/2023/32 (Part II))

Action on the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2023 session (E/2023/32 (Part II))

104. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I of the report.

Draft decision I: Applications for consultative status, requests for a change of name and quadrennial reports received from non-governmental organizations

Draft decision II: Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2023 regular session

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

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

(i) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields (E/2023/55, E/2023/71 and E/2023/L.15)

Draft resolution E/2023/L.15: Provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2024 and 2025

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

107. *Draft resolution E/2023/L.15 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.