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## 2024 session

27 July 2023–24 July 2024

High-level segment

### Summary record of the 36th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 18 July 2024, at 3 p.m.

*President:* Ms. Narváez Ojeda ..... (Chile)

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*Panel discussion on current trends and their impacts: looking to the future and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals*

Agenda item 5: High-level segment on reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions (*continued*)

*Draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council, submitted by the President of the Council*

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**Agenda item 5: High-level segment on reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions** (*continued*) (E/2024/52)

**(b) High-level policy dialogue, including future trends and scenarios related to the Council theme and the long-term impact of current trends** (*continued*) (E/2024/33 and E/2024/55)

1. **The President** said that the future of work was linked to the ability to secure a just digital transition. When properly harnessed, digital tools could accelerate job creation and help to expand social protection, leading to increased labour market opportunities, including for women and young people, and safer, more inclusive and more prosperous societies. The Council's leadership, coordination and guidance of the was crucial to address current trends and their impact on the Sustainable Development Goals and to provide policy guidance for a better future for all people.

*Panel discussion on current trends and their impacts: looking to the future and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals*

2. **Mr. Bhattacharya** (Senior Fellow, Center for Sustainable Development, Brookings Institution), moderator, said that the discussion was an opportunity to discuss how the current trends of geopolitical tension, changing labour markets, technological change, the continuing and intensifying effects of climate change, and the evolving nature of social contracts were having an impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. **Ms. Bárcena** (Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mexico), panellist, said that geopolitical tensions were mounting and that the era of hyperglobalization was seemingly coming to an end. The world was moving towards increased protectionism, less market and financial liberalization, and major challenges to human security. Technological change was having a major social and economic impact, which was widening social divides and affecting women in particular. Changing labour markets were affecting workers' rights and leading to increased levels of informal employment, with high rates of informality in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Employment was crucial to overcoming poverty and inequality.

4. A lack of tools to respond to the effects of climate change had exacerbated the impact of extreme weather events, in particular in developing countries. Resilience-

building and restoration were therefore of vital importance. In addition, the world was facing weak economic growth and high levels of unsustainable debt.

5. Mexico had implemented a different economic model, referred to as the fourth transformation, as a way to eliminate privileges that denied rights. Under that model, public spending had been channelled to social protection mechanisms, in particular for the most vulnerable, and to infrastructure, including for the construction of roads, railways and ports, which had lifted millions out of poverty through job creation. Human migration had been a challenge for Mexico, with 2.3 million migrants having travelled through the country in 2023. The Government of Mexico was working to find regular pathways for labour mobility.

6. The world was embarking on an epochal change, which called for action to reshape it. The 2030 Agenda had been insufficient in doing so and there was uncertainty as to whether the Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024, would lead to the restoration of global public goods, namely, peace. With regard to technology, there were large gaps in access and capabilities worldwide; the global digital compact, to be adopted at the Summit, would provide an opportunity to close those gaps. There was a need to discuss climate change, biodiversity and desertification in depth, in particular in connection with the financial agenda.

7. The global financial architecture must be more inclusive and equitable. In that regard, the Council should become an intergovernmental forum to discuss fiscal and financial policies, as well as a true partner of international financial institutions. Without the full involvement of middle-income countries in the debate, it would be impossible to achieve the development financing necessary to combat climate change, protect biodiversity and restore the planet.

8. **Ms. Persaud** (Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Guyana), panellist, said that, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the well-being, safety and security of all people, especially the most vulnerable, must remain at the centre of the global agenda. Climate change was challenging efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve food security. Many countries had disproportionate access to resources to counter food insecurity and suffered the devastation wrought by worsening national disasters and environmental degradation. The destruction caused by Hurricane Beryl had amplified the dire need for global action and for countries to meet their climate financing obligations. Guyana had contributed to global efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change through its 2030 low-carbon development strategy, which was creating

thousands of jobs in low-carbon sectors and providing development finance resources to Indigenous Peoples and hinterland communities. In the first year of the implementation of the strategy, more than 800 projects had been completed, benefiting about 240 Indigenous villages.

9. The Government of Guyana had stabilized the price of gas and diesel by removing the 50 per cent excise tax, as well as transport, production and electricity costs. Through government programmes, financing for steel and cement was being provided for the construction of homes for those with low incomes, while free fertilizer was being provided for agriculture. Stable and productive employment was crucial to the achievement of the Goals. In the context of technological change, nationwide training programmes had been rolled out to ensure that the workforce remained inclusive, adaptable and prepared for the future. Women were benefiting from free training through the Women's Innovation and Investment Network. Urgent action must be taken to bridge the digital divide and avoid an insurmountable gap between global North and South. National development efforts would be inadequate without international support, and cooperation between national Governments and multilateral organizations remained essential for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

10. **Mr. Ocampo** (Professor, Columbia University, and Member of the Committee for Development Policy), panellist, said that the protectionism and aggressive industrial policies of high-income countries were exacerbating the fragmentation of the global economy. Developing countries must not become embroiled in such fragmentation. Debt overhangs must be addressed. The Group of 20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension initiative, adopted in 2020 was insufficient, and there was a need for an ad hoc solution to the current debt crisis and for a permanent institutional framework covering low- and middle-income countries.

11. Biodiversity must be discussed in the context of climate change, and the establishment of exceptions to intellectual property rights could lead to progress in environmental and health matters. There was a need for increased financing by multilateral development banks, including concessional components for low- and middle-income countries, as well as private sector investments, in order to combat climate change and protect biodiversity. International migration, including irregular migration, and the regulation of artificial intelligence, must be further discussed.

12. **Ms. Dywaba** (Next Generation Fellow, United Nations Foundation), lead discussant, said that the participation of young people could lead to more inclusive, mindful and intentional solutions to global issues. Geopolitical tensions, economic fragmentation, technological divides and climate change were disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities, especially in developing regions. Despite those challenges, there was an opportunity for profound change led by young people, who were already at the forefront of technological innovation. In Africa, young entrepreneurs had been developing applications for agriculture, health and education, bridging gaps where traditional systems fell short. In Asia, the rapid adoption of digital platforms by young people had revolutionized e-commerce and e-learning. Young people were also leading change in climate activism.

13. Young people were redefining social contracts and fostering inclusivity, challenging traditional norms and advocating for issues such as gender equality, social justice and human rights. Nevertheless, the barriers faced by young people must be addressed, by ensuring quality education and training to prepare them for an ever-changing labour market and to fully leverage their potential. There was a need to foster enabling environments where young people could participate in decision-making processes and to provide financial and technical support to scale up projects and innovation led by young people. To better support the aspirations of young people, multilateral systems must evolve by enhancing partnerships with Governments, the private sector and civil society to support youth-led initiatives; ensuring the flexibility of international frameworks to respond to the dynamic nature of youth-led movements and technological change; and addressing inequality among countries. Investing in young people would restore global trust in multilateral institutions and enable those institutions to implement the global agenda more efficiently. By recognizing and supporting the role of young people, and through intergenerational cooperation, it was possible to accelerate progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. **Mr. Smyth** (Minister of State, Ireland), ministerial respondent, said that the Ireland was moving away from the use of fossil fuels through electrification. Many existing jobs would need to change, which should be seen as a positive development. To meet the demand for electricians able to install, for example, solar panels and heat pumps, the Government had invested in formal training programmes, which had enabled more women to enter the profession. Renewable energy could be seen as both a major capital investment and a way to democratize energy production. Enabling people to

generate their own electricity through solar panels, for example, had been received positively in Ireland.

15. It was necessary to fully support the United Nations system and to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, and the resident coordinator system was vital in that regard. The Pact for the Future was a critical opportunity to recognize the challenges and turbocharge progress towards the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals. The Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024, and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit on Social Development, both to be held in 2025, were key milestones for multilateral collaboration. Unpredictable events such as wars and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had meant reevaluating the approach to the Goals, highlighting the need for ongoing discussions and sharing of experiences.

16. **Mr. Al Saqri** (Minister of Economy, Oman), ministerial respondent, said that protectionism in developed countries was having an impact on the global economy and, in turn, the Sustainable Development Goals. Research showed that trade liberalization could lead to significant growth, driven by factors such as increased efficiency, access to larger markets and the spread of technology and innovation. Developing countries, in particular in the global South, were gaining prominence in global trade and were crucial to combating global environmental challenges. It was therefore important that developed countries take the lead in creating an inclusive and supportive global trade environment. Financial resources, know-how and technology should be channelled from developed countries to developing countries, and liberal trade policies enabling free movement of trade, investment and capital were necessary.

17. **Mr. Al Khalifa** (Secretary-General, National Planning Council, Qatar), ministerial respondent, said that, without security and peace, sustainable development remained a distant dream. Ongoing conflicts entailed staggering economic, social and environmental costs and must be brought to an end. Addressing climate change was a shared global responsibility and neglecting it would hinder progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The Qatar National Vision 2030 was aimed at balancing economic and social development with environmental preservation, and the third national development strategy was focused on enhancing environmental sustainability, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience to future threats.

18. Rising food and energy prices and tightening financial conditions had led to increased poverty and hunger, reversing progress on the Goals. The growing gap in funding for the Goals must be addressed in order to avoid a permanent gap in sustainable development. A long-term focus on resilient and inclusive development was essential in tackling short-term crises. Qatar was a significant donor to the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and had contributed \$100 million in humanitarian and development aid during the previous year.

19. While science, technology and innovation held immense potential to accelerate progress towards sustainable development, many people, in particular the poorest and most vulnerable, lacked access to transformative technologies. To ensure no one was left behind, innovations that made the planet more sustainable and communities more prosperous should be available to all. The role of young people in achieving sustainable development was indispensable, and it was necessary to harness their potential to achieve the Goals. The global financial architecture must be reformed through international partnerships in order to combat the climate crisis and achieve the Goals.

20. **Mr. Moyo** (Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe), ministerial respondent, said that the impact of economic fluctuations on developing countries called for inclusive economic policies that ensured equitable growth and development. Employment patterns had been affected by automation and digitalization, with further shifts expected owing to artificial intelligence, and training was needed to ensure that workers could adapt to new job market realities. The emergence of the gig economy required attention owing to its implications for job security and workers' rights. National economic and social councils must be strengthened. The attainment of the Vision 2030 strategy of Zimbabwe would require enhanced human capital development through the promotion of skills training, innovation, science and entrepreneurship. Higher and tertiary education would be at the core of efforts to make Zimbabwe a middle-income economy by 2030. There was a need to close the digital divide and bridge the gap for equitable access to technology.

21. Zimbabwe was taking measures to tackle the intensifying impacts of climate change on agriculture, water resources and public health. The effects of weather events on agriculture had led the country to redirect resources from development projects to food imports. In order to ensure climate-proof agricultural programmes, developing countries must honour their long-standing climate finance obligations.

22. Multilateral collaboration must be enhanced and global governance institutions reformed to better address current global challenges. Zimbabwe fully supported the reform of the global financial architecture. The importance of financial assistance, technology transfer and capacity-building support from developed countries could not be overemphasized. Debt relief and fair-trade practices to support sustainable development in developing countries were critical.

23. It was necessary to promote inclusive and sustainable economic policies that prioritized human well-being; invest in education and vocational training to prepare the workforce for future challenges; strengthen climate resilience through sustainable practices and international cooperation; enhance social protection systems to ensure no one was left behind; and invest in data collection systems for comparability analysis and benchmarking by the Council.

24. **Mr. Anyaegbu** (Nigeria) said that, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, all partners in the international trading system must create an enabling environment for investment. International partnerships were needed to address the rejection of exports from Nigeria, which had led to the depreciation of non-oil exports. He wondered how local production could be supported to boost the economies of developing countries, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa. Although efforts had been made to tackle corruption, more needed to be done, including through the timely repatriation of assets, as addressing corruption would help developing countries to fund the Goals. Despite the stimulus for the Goals proposed by the Secretary-General, there was a need for greater support from partners for initiatives to fund the Goals, including through real action and commitments.

25. **Ms. Pokhrel** (Observer for the International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development) said that the combination of geopolitical instability, climate crisis effects, high inflation and increasing debt had led to a worsening situation for the least developed countries, which faced increased vulnerability and a lack adequate resources to address complex challenges owing to their limited capacities and structural constraints. Vulnerable populations had been disproportionately affected by restrictive trade measures, ongoing shortages and high prices of essential goods, unsafe migration, gender inequality, social exclusion and insufficient governance. International support for the least developed countries was grossly inadequate. Flows of official development assistance to the least developed countries had decreased, owing in part to the slowdown in developed economies. Without renewed international cooperation, graduation from the

list of least developed countries remained a mere aspiration.

26. There was a need for structural transformation that prioritized economic diversification and addressed institutional and capacity constraints. Without it, the least developed countries would remain vulnerable to external shocks and risks associated with gaps in infrastructure and in human and institutional capacities. Such gaps must be a primary consideration in the pursuit of regaining momentum towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and transitioning to a low-carbon economy. A key question was whether the least developed countries would be able to meet the ambitious targets and goals established under international development frameworks. Although such frameworks were fundamental in shaping the journey to sustainable development, it was preferable to move forward with well-organized, nationally designed strategies. The concept of the Group of Least Developed Countries must become a thing of the past through constructive, all-of-society engagement.

27. **Mr. Zhao** Haibo (China) said that, as a result of geopolitical conflicts, food and energy crises and climate change, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals had been seriously hampered, with nearly half of the Goals off track and progress on more than a third stalled or being reversed. Development must be placed at the core of the international agenda, with a focus on poverty reduction, food security, financing for development and climate change, which were among the most pressing challenges for developing countries. The people-centred principle must be upheld to ensure that all countries, in particular developing countries, enjoyed the opportunities and benefits of development on an equal footing.

28. It was necessary to promote the reform of the international financial architecture, build an open world economy, oppose unilateralism and protectionism, and create an enabling environment for developing countries. Extensive global partnerships for development must be established and new momentum for development jointly built. Developed countries should fulfil their official development assistance and climate financing obligations and honour their commitments to provide financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing countries.

29. China had integrated the 2030 Agenda into its national development strategy, fostered global prosperity and stability through its own development, promoted the implementation of global initiatives and provided support to the global South. Looking ahead to the Summit of the Future, China stood ready to further

strengthen development cooperation with all parties, make joint efforts, and contribute to the realization of the Goals and the building of a global community of common development.

30. **Ms. Birkenborg** (Denmark) said that the enthusiasm surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals when they were announced in 2015 had waned in Denmark. Since 2015, the world had changed significantly, with global crises driving international agendas, highlighting the need for the approach to sustainable development to change. There was a tendency to overlook the long term when setting political agendas, and that needed to change. The Goals should be brought into line with common agendas and linked to current trends in order to spark ideas and innovation and to revive the enthusiasm felt in 2015.

31. **Mr. Walsh** (Observer for the Sustainable Development Solutions Network) said that progress towards achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 was slower than expected. Reforming the global financial architecture was more important than ever, and low- and middle-income countries required urgent access to affordable long-term capital. Countries must renew their commitment to multilateralism for the sake of global peace and sustainable development. Protecting and promoting trusted and inclusive open international research, collaboration and people-to-people exchange was important, and the inclusion of open science in the Pact for the Future was a welcome development. At the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2024, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network had presented a position paper, in collaboration with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on the creation of a global knowledge commons for the Mission 4.7 initiative, underscoring the fact that sharing and repurposing knowledge for use across countries could open up pathways to global peace and sustainable development.

32. **Mr. Bahjuri Ali** (Observer for Indonesia) said that the continuing and intensifying adverse effects of climate change were having a significant impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To mitigate those effects, it was necessary to adopt integrated climate adaptation strategies, including through the promotion of adaptive social protection, sustainable land use practices and renewable energy investments. Population shifts needed to be properly managed through the implementation of targeted policies to ensure that they did not lead to increased demands on resources, including land, water and energy. Enhancements in

technology, including digitalization, presented opportunities to transform industry and employment. In that light, there was a need to strengthen international and technical cooperation in science, technology and innovation and to advance digital transformation, including through capacity-building programmes and technology and knowledge transfer. Addressing such complex trends called for multilateral cooperation and innovative strategies.

33. **Ms. Deur** (Croatia) said that, while there had been advancements in technology, renewable energy solutions and precision agriculture, such trends posed challenges. The rapid pace of technological change could exacerbate inequalities, climate change threatened food security and led to ecosystem degradation and population displacement, and population growth was putting pressure on resources and infrastructure. There was a need to strengthen policy coherence by considering both internal and external policies and their connection to the Sustainable Development Goals, and to ensure equity and inclusion. Technological advancements must benefit all people, and the digital divide must be bridged. It was necessary to build sustainable and resilient societies by investing in sustainable infrastructure and practices, including social safety nets and disaster preparedness.

34. To achieve the Goals, global partnerships must be strengthened, international financial resources mobilized, and private sector and civil society engagement fostered. Peace and security and respect for human rights and gender equality were also crucial, as were strong institutions and the rule of law. All of that would only be possible through strengthened multilateralism and trust. All available instruments must be utilized to promote peaceful societies and prevent conflict, including by strengthening the relationship between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

35. **Mr. Le Viet-Anh** (Observer for Viet Nam) said that vulnerable groups were bearing the brunt of multiple overlapping crises that were undermining progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Urgent transformative action was needed to realize the Goals, which served as a cost-effective resilience-building strategy to mitigate the impact of unexpected crises. Major shifts in food systems, energy, digital connectivity, education, employment, social protection, and climate change and biodiversity, among other critical areas, were essential to achieve the Goals by 2030.

36. Multilateral cooperation must be further strengthened, and the United Nations development system played an important role in supporting all countries and partners towards sustainable development.

Countries must work together to restore trust in multilateral frameworks and the international system in order to foster shared global prosperity while addressing disruptive trends and challenges. Development finance and the global financial architecture must be reformed in order to increase financing for sustainable development and scale up climate financing. Such reforms must address inequalities within and between countries and enable equal access to financial resources and decision-making powers. Urgent and more effective international cooperation was also needed to restructure debt and address refinancing challenges.

37. **Mr. Zong** (Observer for Children and Youth International) said that, although children and young people were the most affected by poverty, inequality, climate change and digitalization, they were also at the forefront of solving such interlinked challenges. At the high-level political forum, young people had promoted intergenerational accountability and inclusive innovation for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Although the second revision of the Pact for the Future contained a number of provisions related to young people, the references to major groups and other stakeholders had been removed and should be reinstated.

38. Young people must be at the centre of global agenda-setting and action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which called for both technological and social innovation. Despite limited connectivity and digital literacy, which should be treated as a form of poverty, young people around the world were already coming up with innovative solutions for the Goals, benefiting all people. The meaningful engagement of rights holders in the Council and the General Assembly must be ensured at all stages.

39. **Ms. Shekriladze** (Observer for Georgia) said that peace and security were central to development; without peace, there was no way to honour the promise of leaving no one behind. In her country's voluntary national review, presented a few days earlier at the high-level political forum, it was mentioned that Georgia had struggled to fulfil the promise of leaving no one behind as a result of the illegal occupation of two of its regions. Although there were governmental programmes and efforts aimed at improving the grave conditions of people in those regions, the Russian occupation had denied access to such resources.

40. It was necessary to address the impacts of climate change, which, while they affected all people to a certain extent, posed an existential threat for others. There was also a need to address the effects of rapid technological change and to make new technology available to everyone. The sustainable use of resources was

important, given the limited nature of resources and population growth.

41. **Mr. Fondukov** (Observer for the Russian Federation), speaking in exercise of the right of reply and referring to the statement made by the representative of Georgia, drew attention to the fact that the position of the Russian Federation was well known.

42. **Mr. Ryder** (Under-Secretary-General for Policy), panellist, said that the Summit of the Future would be focused on ensuring that the multilateral system was better equipped to honour existing agreements and to respond to new and emerging trends and challenges, such as conflict and displacement, climate change and the triple planetary crisis. Challenges also included the emergence of new technologies, unacceptably high levels of poverty and hunger, and the increasing concentration of wealth and power, as well as a complex geopolitical landscape, major demographic changes and weakening trust in Governments and institutions. In 2021, the Secretary-General had sought in his report entitled "Our Common Agenda" to address those challenges, putting forward a series of recommendations to make multilateralism fit for the twenty-first century.

43. The Pact for the Future would provide Member States with an opportunity to respond positively and decisively to further advance the Sustainable Development Goal stimulus and the reform of the international financial architecture; to achieve shared principles for an open, free, secure and human-centred digital future that applied to, and benefited, all people and ensured strong collaboration to close digital divides; to enhance global arrangements and tools for preventing and ending conflicts and securing lasting peace for people worldwide; to strengthen the capacity to respond to complex global crises; to significantly enhance youth participation in decision-making at the national and international levels; to ensure that global progress indicators better accounted for the environmental and social dimensions of growth; to take specific steps to account for the interests of future generations in current national and global decision-making; and to make multilateralism more inclusive, more networked and more effective.

44. In the final stages of the negotiations on the Pact, it was essential that Governments continued to aim high, to prioritize the intersecting challenges faced by all people and to find the common ground that was critical to multilateralism. The outcomes of the Summit could be leveraged to support the acceleration of the achievement of the Goals, and to honour the commitments of the international community to peace, human rights and sustainable development.

45. **Ms. Bárcena** (Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mexico) said that the discussion had highlighted the importance of delivering global public goods, such as peace; combating protectionism and the aggressive policies being implemented by developed countries; and addressing issues related to debt, climate change and biodiversity. Exceptions to intellectual property rights and the provision of concessional financing would enable progress.

46. **Ms. Persaud** (Minister of Human Services and Social Security, Guyana) said that the equitable distribution of resources to respond to irregular migration would continue to be needed. The safety and security of people in situations of irregular migration must also be ensured. In addressing climate change, it was imperative to focus on inclusion and participation, in particular with regard to women in leadership roles. Guyana had been involving women from Indigenous communities in its efforts to tackle climate change. Multilateral institutions must be strengthened to enable them to address unprecedented and emerging challenges and trends, to ensure that they were transparent and accountable and to better mobilize global resources.

47. **Mr. Ocampo** (Professor, Columbia University, and Member of the Committee for Development Policy) said that, despite the progress made on the role of multilateral development banks and international tax cooperation, more needed to be done in terms of debt overhangs in developing countries. With regard to the international reserve system, the only interesting proposal was the more active use of special drawing rights. As part of the review of the multilateral system, additional regional institutions should be established and greater interaction between international and regional institutions should be fostered.

**Agenda item 5: High-level segment on reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions** (*continued*) (E/2024/52)

*Draft ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council, submitted by the President of the Council (E/2024/L.20-E/HLPF/2024/L.1)*

48. **The President** drew attention to the draft ministerial declaration of the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and

eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions” (E/2024/L.20-E/HLPF/2024/L.1), which she had submitted in her capacity as President of the Council. She said that the draft ministerial declaration had no programme budget implications.

49. In accordance with rule 64 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, a decision would first be taken on the amendment to the draft ministerial declaration submitted by the delegation of Nicaragua, as contained in an informal paper dated 17 July 2024.

50. **Ms. Majeed** (Pakistan), **Mr. Gueye** (Senegal), **Ms. Cao Liwen** (China) and **Mr. Kenga** (Kenya) requested clarification on the version of the draft ministerial declaration to be considered, as the text before them differed from the version adopted at the high-level political forum the previous day.

51. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) said that, since 2016, the Council and the forum had each taken distinct and separate action on draft ministerial declarations, including proposed amendments.

52. **Ms. Majeed** (Pakistan) wished to know if there were previous cases where amendments had been adopted and the document adopted at the forum was therefore different from the version initially submitted. She asked whether taking separate action could lead to the existence of two distinct ministerial declarations.

53. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) provided several examples from previous years in which separate action had been taken on proposed amendments and requests for paragraph votes. There was no automatic reconsideration by the Council of proposals and requests considered at the forum. She reiterated that the procedure being followed was the same as in previous years.

54. **Ms. Cao Liwen** (China) and **Mr. Gueye** (Senegal) hoped that further clarification would be provided as to whether any amendments adopted at the high-level political forum were resubmitted to the Council.

55. **Ms. Skoczek** (Poland) said that it was not the first time that the procedure had been followed and that all delegations had had the opportunity to raise concerns on procedural matters as part of the review of the forum and the Council.

56. **Ms. Majeed** (Pakistan), noting that her delegation’s understanding was that there was no such precedent, asked which ministerial declaration would be implemented if different versions were adopted by the high-level political forum and the Council, and whether two ministerial declarations would exist in parallel.



57. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Council) confirmed that, in previous years, no proposed amendments to draft ministerial declarations had been adopted at the high-level political forum.

58. **Ms. Majeed** (Pakistan) and **Mr. Kenga** (Kenya) said that, based on the explanation provided, two separate versions of the ministerial declaration would exist, which could give rise to discrepancies. The Council was requested to provide the explanation in writing.

59. **Mr. Al Nahhas** (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) said that, in his delegation's view, the amendment adopted at the high-level political forum applied to both draft ministerial declarations.

60. **Mr. Momeni** (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran) proposed that, as the situation could give rise to legal issues, a legal expert should explain the implications of the existence of two different versions of the declaration.

61. **Ms. Majeed** (Pakistan) and **Ms. Cao Liwen** (China) requested a deferral of the vote on the adoption of the draft ministerial declaration.

62. **The President** said that the established procedures had been followed. The letter she had sent earlier that month regarding the draft ministerial declaration had clearly stated that the document would be submitted for adoption by both the high-level political forum and the Council.

63. **Ms. Onwuasoanya** (Office of Legal Affairs) said that, in application of General Assembly resolution [67/290](#) and subsequent resolutions on the work of the forum and the Council, the practice had been that the high-level political forum and the Council had taken separate action on ministerial declarations. There was no language in those resolutions to suggest that the Council should endorse the declaration as adopted by the forum.

64. **Mr. Gueye** (Senegal), **Ms. Majeed** (Pakistan) and **Mr. Murillo Ferrer** (Colombia) said that it was still unclear which of the two texts, should they be different, would prevail.

65. **Ms. Gutiérrez Tórrez** (Observer for Nicaragua) said that it was unacceptable to proceed with a version of the draft ministerial declaration that was different from the one adopted at the forum.

66. **The President** said that she took it that members wished to seek a legal opinion from the Office of Legal Affairs regarding the text of the draft ministerial declaration to be considered by the Council.

67. *It was so decided.*

68. **The President** said that the representative of China had moved to defer action on the draft ministerial declaration, within the context of rule 50 of the rules of procedure of the Council.

69. *In accordance with rule 50 of the rules of procedure, a vote was taken on the motion put forward by China to defer action on draft the draft ministerial declaration contained in document [E/2024/L.20-E/HLPF/2024/L.1](#).*

*In favour:*

China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mauritania, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Tunisia.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Oman, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

70. *The motion to defer action on the draft ministerial declaration contained in document [E/2024/L.20-E/HLPF/2024/L.1](#) was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 33 abstentions.*

71. **The President** said the date of the meeting to take action on the draft ministerial declaration would be announced in due course.

*The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.*