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President: Mr. Mbayu (Vice-President) (Cameroon)**Contents**

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In the absence of Mr. Wibisono (Indonesia), Mr. Mbayu (Cameroon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Coordination, programme and other questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies (E/2000/53, A/55/16 (Part I))

(b) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

1. **Mr. Civili** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) introduced the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) for 1999, contained in document E/2000/53. He recalled that in keeping with Council resolution 1999/66, beginning in 2001 a report would be made to the Council after each session of ACC and the annual report would present a broader assessment for the Council's consideration of the state of the United Nations system and the state of coordination within the system, highlighting the contribution of ACC, progress made as perceived by the Executive Heads and outstanding problems which needed to be addressed, in particular those that the Council, given its inter-agency policy coordination responsibilities, was best suited to advance. The report before the Committee was therefore a transitional report prepared with a view to future reporting practices set out in resolution 1999/66 but at the same time meeting reporting mandates still in force. The introduction provided a sense of the direction to be followed in the future. The body of the report outlined the main outcomes of ACC sessions held in 1999, but not on a session-by-session basis, since the Council had already received that information. It rather provided an issue-by-issue review and, for the first time, information on developments in individual agencies which, although not necessarily taken up specifically by ACC, were an integral part of the move towards improved inter-secretariat coordination which ACC was endeavouring to lead. He hoped that format would meet with the Council's approval.

2. The introduction to the report spoke of a new phase in approaches to coordination, which was very relevant to the Council's coordination responsibilities,

for which the global conferences of the 1990s had in many ways been a major turning point. Up until that time, coordination efforts had been hindered by a number of problems: a policy framework based on resolutions from central intergovernmental bodies which was too broadly stated to effectively guide policy, a tendency to focus on the negative, programme duplication and the absence of a clear sense of the real added-value of coordination. Central coordinating bodies such as the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Council, while feeling the need to inspect the work of the agencies, were unsure of how far they could or should go without beginning to second-guess their governing bodies, which also had an obligation to reflect the will of Governments. The global conferences of the 1990s had, however, contributed a series of focused policy frameworks and targets in areas central to the work of virtually all agencies, frameworks endorsed at the conferences and summits at the highest level of government. Agencies had contributed actively to elaborating those frameworks and had wholeheartedly embraced them. ACC consequently felt a deep commitment to operationalizing those policy frameworks and defining and operationalizing themes which cut across conference outcomes and around which the system could rally. Review and monitoring exercises were therefore viewed not as inspection or second-guessing but as political contributions to the promotion of objectives in which every part of the system had a stake and which every part of the system was committed to achieving.

3. While those approaches remained at the core of coordination efforts, an important new dimension was the need to develop an effective response to the new forces and challenges of globalization. That new awareness would not have been possible without the sense created by the conference processes that, in order to be effective, coordination was best achieved by the confluence of bottom-up and top-down efforts and active involvement of the agencies in the development of common policy lines that would guide and help measure the contribution of all. That new phase was defined by two factors: greater awareness by the agencies, within their mandates, of the contribution they could make to the total effort and their deliberate efforts to involve others in planning implementation and follow-up while, at the activity level, partnership-building with other agencies and other partners was

seen as an integral and key part of the new programmes being developed throughout the system.

4. The organization of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) X as a system-wide event, the sharing by the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its post-Seattle reflections and plans and the major new partnership programmes being launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) were important manifestations of the new trend to cooperation and coordination. They reflected the strong and growing sense that there were great overarching goals such as those defined by the global conferences in the areas of poverty, social exclusion and gender equality which needed to be addressed by the system acting together, that no agency, in the face of globalization, could make progress in meeting its own specific objectives without the contribution and assistance of others and that each advance made must be harmonized with others in order to succeed. That realization had implications for the work of ACC, where Executive Heads must assess not only their contribution to common efforts but also what progress needed to be made by specific agencies, for example to increase political support for a new trade round and, conversely, which constituents of a new trade round could maximize contributions to development. That had major implications for the Council in defining its contribution to coordination making dialogue on the impact of globalization as important as, if not more important than the more specific coordination work undertaken during its coordination and operational activities segment.

5. There were also important implications for the Council's dialogue with ACC. That dialogue must be continued with the full membership of ACC but must also be increasingly diversified towards groups of agencies operating in the same area and groups of agencies pursuing objectives which were interrelated or needed to be more mutually reinforcing. Perhaps the practices developed with the Bretton Woods institutions, which brought to the Council not only the secretariats but also the leaders of those institutions, should be expanded to include other agencies. The annual report of ACC could not only provide the Council with an overview of ACC's own work but also developments involving individual agencies which were especially relevant to the total effort. A start had been made in the current report in the areas of science and food security, among others.

6. The report had been prepared in a spirit of dialogue, in the hope of contributing to the Council's reflections on responses to the challenges of globalization but also in the hope that the Council's observations would enrich the work of ACC. It presented highlights of the outcome of a retreat held by ACC in 1999 as part of its continuing study of globalization and institutional responses to the challenges it posed (chap. II, paras. 19-35). Discussion on specific areas, such as trade in April 2000, and health and the social dimensions of globalization in the fall of 2000, would continue. In a spirit of transparency, ACC had thought it best to share the results of its discussions with the Council as they developed. In that context, the new reporting procedures, the reports to be provided to the Council at the end of each ACC session and the new ACC web site should eliminate concerns about a lack of transparency in the work of ACC, although it was impossible to encapsulate all the work of ACC and the system in a single document. Coordination was however increasingly an integral part of the work of the entire system, and virtually all the reports of the Secretary-General to the Council and the functional commissions reflected the concerted efforts of the agencies involved.

7. Priority in reporting should be given to policy relevance, rather than comprehensiveness, and to progressively defining together the key policy issues on which the dialogue between the Council and ACC should focus, so as to have the maximum impact on the coherence of the work of the system. That principle had influenced the choice of topics highlighted in the report: African development, HIV/AIDS and staff security as examples of the issues around which the system was coming together.

8. There were obviously parallel processes of reform, emphasizing greater dialogue and openness, under way in both the Council and ACC. That would reinforce mutual confidence and effectiveness and strengthen both bodies. It was gratifying as well that mutual confidence between ACC and CPC was growing, as the report of the latter would no doubt indicate.

9. **The President** expressed satisfaction at the continued improvement in the format as well as the substance of the overview report, in response to the recommendations contained in Council resolution 1999/96. It was a more dynamic and

analytical document and provided Member States with a better sense of the state of coordination and collaboration towards achieving the goals and objectives established by intergovernmental processes.

10. Like the Council itself, ACC had focused on the process of globalization, and the report noted the challenges confronting the international community in seeking a balance between economic, social and environmental objectives in the context of globalization. It showed that ACC was quite aware that only by working together and taking advantage in a concerted way of all available negotiating instruments and outreach mechanisms would the United Nations system be able to tackle the challenge of globalization and make it work for the people of the world.

11. He informed the Committee that the report of CPC on the first part of its fortieth session, as contained in document A/55/16 (part I) was not yet available. The Council would shortly be informed as to when the report would be introduced.

(c) Long-term programme of support for Haiti
(E/2000/63)

12. **Mr. Cabral** (Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti) recalled that Haiti had been without a constitutional government since 1997 and without a legislative body since January 1999. It had been hoped that the holding of legislative and municipal elections, encouraged and supported by the United Nations system, would provide a solution to the crisis. The first round had been held on 21 May, with an unexpectedly high turnout of more than 50 per cent. There had been little violence on election day, and relatively few cases of fraud had been reported. The elections had, however, been disorganized and poorly planned. Following the vote, opposition leaders declared the election process illegitimate and charged that there had been massive fraud although official challenges for the most part had not been backed up with concrete evidence. Although, despite some incidents, on the whole the police had behaved admirably on 21 May, two days after the elections there had been a series of arrests of opposition candidates and supporters, sometimes by special police units from the capital, and the police had failed to intervene in violent protests by supporters of former President Aristide's Fanmi Lavalas party both before and after the elections, raising concerns about partisan behaviour on the part of the police.

13. Electoral abnormalities during the first round, denounced by international and local observers, had given too many Senate seats to Fanmi Lavalas, but, under pressure from that party's supporters, the Electoral Council had approved the results. Most seats in the Chamber of Deputies had been won by Fanmi Lavalas, which had also won most of the municipal councils. Although all results had been issued by electoral authorities without first dealing with challenges filed by various candidates, most of those challenges were very general and failed to provide hard evidence to substantiate allegations. The President of the Electoral Council, Léon Manus, had fled the country on 18 June, saying he feared for his life and giving credibility to charges of electoral fraud, police participation in ballot theft and falsification of results. Two opposition members of the Electoral Council had resigned, and on 3 July President Préval had appointed three new Council members, casting doubt on its independence.

14. Despite calls by the international community, including the Organization of American States (OAS), the internationale Organisation de la Francophonie, the United Nations, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the umbrella organization of Haitian electoral observers (CNO) as well as private sector and religious organizations, the Government had refused to hold a second round run-off election for the disputed Senate seats at the same time as the run-offs for the Chamber of Deputies, on 9 July. The OAS Electoral Observation Mission and CNO had refused to observe the second round, and the OAS Mission had withdrawn the day after the elections. Virtually all opposition parties had boycotted the second round, although a number of opposition candidates had nonetheless remained in the race. Turnout had been very low, and results were not yet available, although it appeared that Fanmi Lavalas had won most of the seats. The international community continued to insist on the need for the Electoral Council and the authorities to review the Senate results. Failure to do so would cast a shadow on the Parliament's democratic legitimacy and further delay resumption of much-needed international financial assistance. The Haitian authorities nevertheless insisted that they could not intervene on the grounds of the Electoral Council's constitutional independence, although the experience of the preceding few weeks had cast serious doubts on that independence.

15. Turning to the United Nations International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH), he said that that Mission, established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/193 and begun on 16 March 2000, confirmed the commitment of the international community to accompany Haiti in its efforts to consolidate democracy based on the rule of law and also reflected the Council's desire that the Secretary-General continue his good offices in Haiti through his Representative and maintain a political office.

16. The police pillar of MICAH was working to develop the institutional capacity of the Haitian National Police, and advisers were being deployed throughout Haiti. The human rights pillar was focusing on building the capacity of Haitian institutions to protect human rights and verify individual cases; case monitoring would focus on the human rights aspects of the ongoing electoral process. The staff of the justice pillar had conducted discussions with bilateral donors and within the United Nations system in order to ensure that justice sector work would be coordinated, complementary and sustainable. Nevertheless, MICAH's capacity to support Haiti's fledgling democratic institutions could be jeopardized by political turmoil and intolerance. Strong, independent justice sector institutions were the best guarantors of the rule of law, and it was to be hoped that public security and justice officials would make full use of the expertise available within MICAH. Despite progress, human rights violations continued and it was hoped that the Office of the Ombudsman would take full advantage of the Mission's verification expertise. The security situation was also of concern and could place significant constraints on the ability of MICAH advisers to do their work.

17. The international community remained committed to Haiti's democratic progress and social and economic development, but substantive change could only result from well-coordinated and coherent long-term planning, which was contingent on political stability and adherence by the Government to a free, fair and credible democratic process. It was essential that Haiti's political leadership should take into account the legitimate aspirations of the entire population, implement the rule of law and build a free and democratic society. Democracy was the only route to better living conditions for the population and to long-lasting peace and stability.

18. **Mr. Taranco** (UNDP Resident Representative and United Nations Resident Coordinator in Haiti), introducing the report (E/2000/63), noted that it was submitted pursuant to resolution 1999/11 and covered progress achieved and constraints faced by the international community, including United Nations bodies, in the elaboration and implementation of the long-term programme of support for Haiti. After touching on the economic situation in the country and current macroeconomic constraints, the report presented an overview of United Nations system development activities in 1999. It was important to note that coordination among the development actors in Haiti had been improved dramatically over the past two years as a result of the relaunching of thematic groups and of the cooperation between United Nations agencies involved and MICAH. The United Nations system had been promoting coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences, and there had been a serious attempt to harmonize the programming cycle, as a result of which most agencies would have such a cycle as of the year 2002. Within the framework of their individual mandates, agencies in the United Nations system had continued their capacity-building support to Haiti in a wide-ranging set of programme areas, which were listed in the report. The United Nations system in Haiti and the Dominican Republic had also held their first joint meeting in May 1999, establishing a process of consultation that would continue in 2000 and beyond.

19. As an example of the coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences, in the past year there had been concerted effort to assist the Government of Haiti to report on the Copenhagen+5 World Summit. The gender thematic group had also been particularly active in working with the Government of Haiti on the preparation of the national report of Beijing+5. There had also been important studies on human rights, in particular with respect to the rights of the child. Another important initiative had been the work of the United Nations in helping to organize a round table bringing together the Government, the private sector and major donors as a first step towards assisting Haiti in the formulation of a comprehensive trade promotion policy.

20. An important development during the past year had been the launching of the United Nations system of a common country assessment (CCA) process. That was significant in that it was the main vehicle of

dialogue between the United Nations, the Government, civil society and the NGO community. In approaching the elaboration of a long-term programme of support, it was determined by the participants that the common country assessment would be the best approach for Haiti in that at the current stage no long-term development policy existed. That assessment would serve not only as the basis for undertaking the United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) process but would be a major building block for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) poverty reduction strategy papers. What was particularly interesting about the initiation of the process was that intensive consultations had been held among all the development partners on what the process would entail. It was agreed that all major actors would be participants in the process and that the assessment would be extended over six months rather than completed in three. After an in-depth analysis of the key sectors and constraints on the Government, 18 thematic working groups had been constituted. It was understood that, because of the lack of social and economic data, it would be necessary to finance additional sectoral and thematic studies. The themes selected for the working groups fell into five broad areas, governance, the economy, social services, culture and peace, and spatial development and the environment. In addition to those working groups, there had been a separate ongoing study to assess the status of coordinated follow-up in Haiti to United Nations-sponsored conferences, conventions and declarations.

21. All the thematic groups had completed their work and CCA itself was now ready and would be submitted to the general public in March.

22. The CCA had shown that credible statistics were currently unavailable for key social sectors, making it impossible to establish a disaggregated poverty profile and to construct objective poverty reduction indicators and benchmarks. As a result of an initiative of the Government of Norway, the United Nations system would be undertaking a survey of living conditions in Haiti which should allow the World Bank, IMF and the rest of the United Nations system to undertake a poverty reduction strategy paper later in the current year. The UNDAF process was scheduled to start in September and its work would be based on the CCA. The CCA had been defined by all who had read it so far as a very honest, self-critical and straightforward

document which tried to pinpoint what had worked and what had not worked and the foundation on which all the partners should be trying to build.

(d) Tobacco or health (E/2000/21)

23. **Dr. Kean** (World Health Organization), introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control (E/2000/21), which responded to the Council's request that the Secretary-General should report to the Council on its progress in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health, with particular emphasis on economic and social implications of the impact of tobacco.

24. The size and scope of the tobacco epidemic and, consequently, the critical importance of support for global tobacco control efforts were not widely understood. If current trends continued, tobacco was predicted to be the leading cause of premature death worldwide by the 2020s, causing about one in eight premature deaths, and increasingly the burden of disease was being borne by developing countries. Of projected premature deaths in the early part of the century, 70 per cent would occur in developing countries, where cigarette smoking had once been rare.

25. The report provided an overview of an extensive economic base that had been compiled to inform tobacco control policies. Economic evidence strongly demonstrated that demand reduction strategies, particularly tax and price increases, were powerful mechanisms to reduce demand for tobacco products. Remarkably, tax levels in many countries were still very low. The data also showed that non-price demand reduction measures, including advertising bans, counter-advertising, and cessation therapies could have an important impact. In addition, economic data demonstrated the benefits of controls on smuggling as an effective supply-side intervention.

26. Since tobacco control policies would lead to changes in demand for tobacco gradually and over several decades, economic evidence suggested that the potential negative economic effects of tobacco control on employment had been overstated. Even tobacco-dependent economies would have a market big enough to ensure their jobs for many years to come, despite gradually diminishing demand. However, the long-term needs of tobacco growers and manufacturers were not

being ignored; the Task Force was actively involved in work in that area.

27. Regarding the social context of tobacco use and addiction, the report detailed how recent studies had shown that the tobacco epidemic had a clear socio-economic dimension and increasingly tobacco use clustered in lower socio-economic groups. Studies also showed that tobacco use among women, particularly young women, was rising in many parts of the world. The negative health impact on women's health was apparent in countries such as the United States, where lung cancer death rates in women had overtaken breast cancer death rates. The rising epidemic of tobacco use among women was associated with the tobacco industry's aggressive marketing practices, which now threatened women in the developing world as well. Notably, the issue of women and tobacco had been identified as a critical concern in Beijing+5.

28. The establishment of the Task Force, which had met twice during its first year, had significantly expanded opportunities for multisectoral collaboration across the United Nations system. New areas of cooperation had emerged, and prospects for partnerships existed in a number of areas. For example, the World Bank's work on tobacco was being conducted in close partnership with WHO, IMF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other organizations. The Bank had been established as the lead agency on the economics of tobacco control, and its work was focused on various aspects, including taxation, the social and economic impact of tobacco measures and the cost-effectiveness of interventions. As a further example, FAO was the lead agency on an inter-agency project to analyse the impacts of various policies and factors on global tobacco consumption and production. The project, which would be completed in 2001, would provide policy makers in developing countries with information on options to implement tobacco control with minimal disturbance to economic growth and employment.

29. Another area of inter-agency collaboration was work in support of the WHO framework convention on tobacco control. The preparatory technical phase of the framework convention process was now complete, and formal negotiations on the treaty were to begin in October. At the first two sessions of the Task Force, future areas of inter-agency collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), FAO, the

United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the World Customs Organization, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and WTO in support of the Framework Convention had been identified.

30. A number of priority themes for future collaborative work had emerged during the first two sessions of the Task Force. Included had been the dissemination of Task Force information at the country level with the United Nations Development Group and UNDP. The United Nations resident coordinator system could play an invaluable role in ensuring appropriate follow-up to present and future global actions at the national level. In addition, ILO, the World Bank, IMF and WHO had expressed particular interest in collaborating on work regarding the employment effects of tobacco control in developing countries. Finally, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and UNICEF had expressed interest in collaborating with WHO on the policy implications of environmental tobacco smoke, which was the theme of next year's World No Tobacco Day.

31. The accumulated experience of the past year showed that the Task Force was providing an important mechanism for catalyzing the United Nations system cooperation across a wide range of tobacco-related issues.

(e) International cooperation in the field of informatics (E/2000/94)

32. **Mr. Blinder** (Office of Central Support Services), summarizing the Secretary-General's report on the subject (E/2000/94), noted that it reflected the various activities in the field of informatics reported by the departments of the United Nations Secretariat, funds and programmes. During the past year, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group and its technical sub-group had been active. Having fulfilled the key objectives related to services to the permanent missions, the technical sub-group's focus during the past year had changed to more substantive issues, including an effort to increase the use of information technology in providing services to the permanent missions without placing undue burdens on the smaller missions, ensuring the year 2000 readiness of the Secretariat and taking over maintenance of the International Year 2000 Cooperation Center (IYCC). The Working Group itself had taken an active part in the effort to coordinate international year 2000

activities, including the adoption of a standardized reporting procedure (the Global Status Watch), which had become the principal way national coordinators shared information on the status of their critical infrastructure. Once the success of the year 2000 effort had become evident, the Steering Committee and participants in the current year 2000 listserv had agreed that two new listservs should be created to support further cooperation among the nations of the world in order to promote the spread and usefulness of information and communication technologies. At the proposal of the Chairman of the Working Group, it had been agreed unanimously that the former staff of IYCC should maintain and facilitate discussions on the new lists under contract. In its short life, the list had already created attention and demonstrated in a number of ways that structured information-sharing among Governments was a needed, powerful and important force.

33. The Information Technology Services Division had cooperated with the technical sub-group of the Working Group on Informatics to stabilize and improve the Internet service offered and was carrying out a number of activities to that end. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for its part, had convened the High-level Expert Group Meeting on Information Technology for Development, whose report would be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. The Department also continued to use informatics strategically in a number of ways, including assisting Member States in the exchange of information on development areas, enhancing research and analysis for policy making and supporting management and coordination.

34. The presence of the Department of Political Affairs on the Internet continued to expand in the fields of electoral assistance, access to Security Council proceedings and support for the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Department was also developing a comprehensive evaluation of technology tools for electoral systems.

35. The Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services maintained, on a daily basis, web-based versions of the journal of meetings, the daily list of documents and the calendar of meetings. All those documents, originally intended for distribution in paper form, had been redesigned for use on the Internet. The Department of Public Information

had undertaken various activities, detailed in the report, aimed at developing the technical aspects of information dissemination via the Internet. A web site operated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs provided information via the Internet on humanitarian needs and actions regarding natural disasters, complex emergencies and other kinds of emergencies. In 1999, the Office, working in Kosovo in support of the role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as the lead humanitarian agency for Kosovo, had established the Humanitarian Community Information Centre to provide a range of services and information products. Other actions, listed in the report, had also been taken by offices away from Headquarters, funds and programmes in response to issues raised in the Working Group, for example the Information Systems Users' Group in Geneva, which was the forum in which Geneva-based permanent missions worked together with the international organizations to coordinate information technology requirements and harmonize related information technology activities. Other activities were being carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Office for Project Services. At the country level, UNDP was pursuing a number of objectives in information and communications technology which built on the activities described in the previous report (E/1999/74), including providing access at the country level to substantive information, knowledge and best practices, promoting connectivity and access, developing web sites for information and development, promoting development and empowerment through information technology, initiating networking in developing countries and supporting technical cooperation at the regional level.

36. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and UNEP were also carrying out a range of activities.

37. Concluding, he said that the Working Group, in cooperation with the Information Technology Services Division and its other partners, had continued to improve and expand the electronic information services provided to Member States and permanent missions and to ensure that the technologies employed were abreast of the technological development. Departments of the Secretariat, funds and programmes had

intensified their efforts to make information available in electronic form, to promote Internet connectivity and to use information technology to facilitate the sharing of information, knowledge and expertise.

38. **Mr. Doutriaux** (France) spoke on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), the other associated countries (Cyprus, Malta and Turkey) and Norway.

39. Unfortunately, the useful and comprehensive overview report (E/2000/53) on the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination did not contain a summary and assessment of the work carried out in the first half of the year 2000, despite his delegation's earlier request.

40. The European Union welcomed the strengthening of ACC and also of its dialogue with the Council. In 1999, ACC had concentrated its work on the very important issues of globalization, the follow-up to global conferences, peace and sustainable development in Africa, and AIDS.

41. The European Union welcomed ACC's efforts to improve coordination of the activities of United Nations agencies and the many initiatives concerning peace and development in Africa, including ACC's involvement in the Special Initiative of the United Nations system as the main instrument of coordination for the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

42. The European Union supported the policies presented in the report with regard to the programme of work of ACC for the year 2000, especially the trade/environment/labour/human rights nexus, and also the promotion of development, UNAIDS and the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the main United Nations conferences and summits.

43. In connection with items 7 (a) and (b) of the agenda, the European Union acknowledged the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its work during the first part of its fortieth session. CPC had an important role to play in the process of approving the draft medium-term plan for 2002-2005, and the Council should take into account the results of the discussions of CPC when reporting to the General Assembly on the relevant programmes of the medium-term plan.

44. In connection with the Secretary-General's report on the long-term programme of support for Haiti (E/2000/63), he noted in particular the efforts and progress made by the United Nations to strengthen, in close cooperation with the Haitian authorities, coordination between the different agencies, funds and programmes involved.

45. The European Union particularly welcomed the establishment of the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti by the General Assembly in its resolution 193 (1999). Unfortunately, the start-up of the Mission had been affected by financial difficulties which could have been avoided if it had been financed from the regular budget. He hoped that MICAH's work in the areas of police, justice, and human rights would be effective and coordinated. The European Union renewed its support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his local representative in favour of Haiti.

46. With regard to the recent elections, the European Union recalled its statement of 12 July 2000. Full respect for constitutional provisions relating to elections and current electoral law were the basis for fundamental rules of democracy and the state of law, as emphasized by both OAS and CARICOM, organizations of which Haiti was a member. The authorities' refusal to remedy the conditions in which the recent ballots had taken place was a serious infringement of those fundamental rules. The European Union fully associated itself with the observations of the Secretary-General and the Head of the Observation Mission of OAS and might be forced to reconsider its policy in Haiti, if the democratic process was being challenged. In the framework of the Lomé Convention, that would imply applying the provisions of article 366 bis, including a partial or total suspension of aid.

47. The European Union was willing to work in close coordination with OAS and CARICOM to contribute to a resolution of that crisis and reaffirmed the importance of good cooperation with those two organizations.

48. Tobacco use was a serious threat to global health, and was a major cause of death in the world: 4 million people were victims of it each year. According to WHO, that figure would increase significantly in future years.

49. Tobacco affected populations unequally. The number of women and young people smoking continued to grow, and the average age of people

having their first cigarette continued to decline. Over the next few years, 70 per cent of nicotine-related deaths would be in the developing countries. Also, the poorest people in both industrialized and developing countries were increasingly inclined to smoking.

50. The European Union had long given priority to combating the negative health effects of tobacco consumption, and in 1985 it had first emphasized the need to launch a programme against cancer. That initiative had resulted in five successive programmes. Control activities for tobacco, which caused half a million deaths every year within the Union, was at the heart of the actions taken.

51. The European Union and its member States had also continued to take measures to harmonize national legislation for greater information and protection for the consumers of tobacco products. Directives had been adopted relating to: the tar content of tobacco products; the labelling of tobacco products; tobacco advertising and sponsorship to promote tobacco products. Finally, a draft directive aiming to harmonize national standards for the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco products was being considered. The draft directive included measures to reduce the maximum levels of toxic products (tars and nicotine) and to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of health warnings.

52. Finally, priority was also given to tobacco prevention policies, including information booklets for the public, and presentations in schools to inform the youngest members of society of the harmful effects of tobacco.

53. The work conducted by WHO relating to a framework convention and additional protocols should be continued and encouraged. The convention should probably be limited, initially, to a statement of basic principles to which all countries were ready to agree immediately. The individual protocols, which should be negotiated simultaneously, could cover the obligations that would be the most difficult to implement.

54. The European Union supported the efforts for enhancing global cooperation in combating tobacco use and emphasized the importance of exchanging information on best practice in that area.

55. The Union also wished to express its interest in the country case studies and the general equilibrium

models designed by FAO and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. The socio-economic impact of the measures to reduce the supply of tobacco in developing countries had to be correctly perceived and understood. In the countries whose economies were particularly dependent on tobacco production, programmes for crop diversification and options to replace tobacco production should be examined and encouraged.

56. **Mr. Cavalcante** (Brazil) said that the Secretary-General's report on the long-term programme of support for Haiti (E/2000/63) built upon the valuable recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, in which Brazil had taken part, as well as the mandate set by the Council's resolution 11 (1999) and General Assembly resolution 193 (2000). It was important to continue to pursue in close consultation with the Government of Haiti the launching of an effective and well-coordinated long-term development and cooperation strategy to assist Haiti in the areas of education, peace-building, poverty eradication, social integration, employment generation, trade, economic rehabilitation, sustainable development, capacity-building and institutional strengthening.

57. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Observer for Bangladesh) agreed with the conclusions of the Secretary-General regarding the grim implications of tobacco for public health.

58. In addition to the 4 million deaths caused by tobacco use each year, many smoking-related conditions caused a further loss in the productivity of the workforce. The public health dimension alone was sufficient reason to combine the synergies of different institutions for working towards a tobacco-free world.

59. The formation of the Inter-Agency Task Force in 1998 had considerably expanded the opportunity for collaboration across the United Nations system. Within a short period, the World Bank's work on the economics of tobacco control and the impact of tobacco control measures, including the impact on the poor had attracted much attention. The work of different agencies, with FAO as the lead agency, on policy options and adjustments, due to be completed in 2001, would also be valuable.

60. Tobacco was a global health problem with significant economic and social dimensions. The Council should support the work of the Task Force in encouraging multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or

health, in the establishment of national bodies to facilitate actions to address the tobacco epidemic in developing countries and in promoting dissemination of the Task Force's work to national policy makers.

61. Finally, Bangladesh supported WHO's efforts to develop and negotiate a framework convention on tobacco control.

62. **Mr. Chidyausiku** (Observer for Zimbabwe) said that the proposed framework convention on tobacco control was an important issue whose serious implications for specific nations should not be underestimated. For Zimbabwe, tobacco was the largest foreign currency earner. In 1999, it had contributed 38 per cent of physical trade and over US\$ 663 million to national export earnings. Tobacco represented about a third of the total gross domestic product (GDP) and was the country's largest employer of labour. The jobs of many other people also depended on an active and prosperous tobacco industry.

63. In that context, the proposed framework convention posed a serious economic and social threat to the future of Zimbabwe. The Secretary-General's report on the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control (E/2000/21) trivialized a very grave issue when it stated, in paragraph 19, that "the negative effects of tobacco control on employment have been greatly overstated". In Zimbabwe, tobacco-growing employed over one third of all the people working in the agricultural sector, which was the largest employer of labour in the country. Many downstream industries, including software companies, fertilizer companies, pesticide companies and others, existed solely to service the sophisticated tobacco industry. Hundreds of thousands of people would lose their jobs, while millions of their family members would lose their livelihood.

64. Tobacco leaves exports sustained the commercial, industrial and banking sectors, while earning substantial revenues for the Government from taxes and contributing to the maintenance of schooling, housing and many other social services.

65. The framework convention should go beyond pure health matters in the light of those considerations and the other reasons submitted by his delegation to the second Working Group meeting on the framework convention held in Geneva on 27 to 29 March 2000.

66. FAO was conducting country case studies on the impacts of various factors and policies on global tobacco production and consumption. The initial three components of the FAO study would be completed in 2001. It was logical to wait for the results of those cases before considering promulgation of any legally binding conventions.

67. A convention such as the proposed framework convention on tobacco control required the full sanction of all Member States for its implementation to be practicable. Zimbabwe joined those countries which had called for a general convention that left specific details of the protocols for individual Governments to deal with in their own national interests. He emphasized the dangers of any perceived threats to national sovereignty.

68. There were no compelling reasons for urgent ratification or promulgation of the framework convention on tobacco control, as careful and thorough attention should be given to long-term possible impacts. Thorough research was needed on the feasibility of any switch to tobacco alternatives, with appropriate guarantees for the economies affected and specific guarantees to compensate for material and other losses likely to be incurred. The convention should conform to or not conflict with other conventions to which Governments might be signatories.

69. One item missing from the report was that a fund should be established to help countries whose economies were dependent on tobacco.

70. **Mr. Juwayeyi** (Observer for Malawi) said that his Government welcomed the progress report on the framework convention on tobacco control, which was a step in the right direction. The key words in the previous year's discussion had been "transparency and involvement of all stakeholders" in the formulation of the proposed framework. However, Malawi still felt that there had not been full consultations with all stakeholders in the process of formulating the framework convention.

71. Although his delegation wished to support the report on progress made by the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control (E/2000/21) in its entirety, there were certain deficiencies and inaccuracies that should be corrected. Although tobacco-related diseases were a cause of deaths of millions of people, that fact should not be overstated in

relation to other equally, if not more devastating, epidemics such as HIV/AIDS and malaria.

72. The report grossly understated the level of employment generated by tobacco-related activities. He could not agree with the sweeping statement in paragraph 19: "Tobacco production represents only a small part of most economies. For all but a very few agrarian economies heavily dependent on tobacco farming, there would be no net loss of jobs, and there might be even job gains, if tobacco consumption fell".

73. Malawi grew tobacco out of necessity, and the tobacco industry employed 18 per cent of the national population, indirectly providing a livelihood for 71.5 per cent. Tobacco exports generated 41 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), and 70 per cent of Malawi's export earnings came from tobacco. Those earnings supported the importation of basic goods and essential medicines. In addition the tobacco industry provided 23 per cent of national tax revenue.

74. The report indicated in several sections that the studies still required further work. Naturally, it would be premature to start negotiations for the framework convention before the results of the studies were known.

75. Malawi had supported all resolutions on tobacco control in WHO and in the Council. In all of those resolutions, the concerns of tobacco-growing countries, especially those heavily dependent on tobacco growing for their economies, had been recognized, and some of the United Nations agencies had been mandated to look at alternatives to tobacco. For example, FAO had been called upon to look especially at alternative crops as far back as 1970.

76. In Malawi, a number of crop diversification studies had so far failed to come up with a crop that could replace tobacco in the short to medium term. In developing alternative crops or industries there was a need to look critically at issues such as: market potential; production bottlenecks; the establishment of a critical mass of export production groups or villages; and extension services or production techniques at enterprise level.

77. Diversification required proper planning and financial resources, which should be made available under the proposed framework convention. Meanwhile, Malawi had no choice but to continue growing tobacco until alternatives had been identified.

78. Despite the benefits of tobacco-growing, Malawi still had the following sad socio-economic indicators: over 60 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line; it ranked third among the worst countries in terms of disability-adjusted life expectancy; it had one of the lowest gross national product (GNP) per capita income in the world; and malnutrition was rampant, especially among children, 48 per cent of whom were stunted.

79. Currently, tobacco was a lifeline for Malawi, and any alternatives proposed should not make that desperate situation even worse. He strongly recommended that the final version of the framework convention on tobacco control should embrace Malawi's concerns and unique problems, as well as those of other countries in a similar situation.

80. **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Observer for Egypt) welcomed the efforts of ACC in support of a sustained and integrated follow-up to United Nations global conferences and summits of the 1990s. He also welcomed the new web site established by ACC and encouraged it to conduct regular briefings with Member States on the status of its activities. It was also important to hold formal meetings on basic indicators and to strengthen national statistical capacity through a cooperative approach by the United Nations system. In that regard, the central role of the Statistical Commission as the only intergovernmental focal point should be promoted. His delegation supported a collaborative approach by the United Nations in its assistance activities for Africa. Indeed, a holistic approach in that regard would help to eradicate poverty and to promote sustainable development. Referring to the "global compact initiative" of the Secretary-General, launched at the World Economic Forum at Davos, he noted that the Secretariat should brief Member States on the details of that initiative. In that regard, he warned against using international multilateral trade negotiations to try to strengthen elements that could otherwise be addressed in their own appropriate forums.

81. **Mr. Lelong** (Observer for Haiti) said that progress with respect to the political process in his country seemed to have been called in question by statements made during the current meeting concerning the elections held in May and June 2000. Indeed, while the first round of the elections had not been perfect, their organization had been deemed appropriate by international observers. Following the first round, the

Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States had noted an error in the methods used to calculate the percentage of those elected to the Senate. In that regard, he cautioned against a hasty judgement of the electoral process in Haiti and against the suggestion that what had occurred in the first round posed a problem for the whole electoral process. The error noted by the OAS Observation Mission concerned only about 10 candidates in the first round of voting. On 30 June 2000, the Provisional Electoral Council had published an explanation about the method of calculation used in the first round. On the basis of that explanation, the Electoral Council, the sole authority with the power to apply the electoral law, had stated that it had tried to apply a method of calculation and counting of votes which was equitable for everyone. The Haitian Government was not defending a counting method over any other method. Moreover, the prerogatives of the Observation Mission were spelled out very clearly in the agreement with Haiti.

82. **Mr. Weibgen** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that his organization shared the concern over the evidence of the harmful effects of tobacco smoking and the rising incidence of smoking-related diseases, in both the developed and developing countries. Over the past few years, FAO had continued to strengthen its collaboration with WHO and other international agencies for global control efforts. It had actively participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control, while bearing in mind the concerns of countries and farming communities, particularly in developing countries, which were heavily dependent on tobacco as a source of income and sometimes as an important means of achieving household food security.

83. His organization and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) were currently funding an FAO-managed study on the underlying economic and social factors affecting tobacco production and consumption. The study also focused on the impact of various measures and policies to reduce tobacco consumption and production on economic growth, employment in both manufacturing and agricultural sectors, household income, government revenue, options for diversifying from tobacco production and the corresponding adjustment processes based on country-specific conditions. WHO, the World Bank, ILO and national agencies would cooperate in carrying out the study.

84. The effort would provide policy makers, particularly in developing countries, with information on longer-term prospects as well as on the implications for economic growth and employment of alternative tobacco policy options. The information thus collected would be a valuable input to the development of the framework convention on tobacco control.

85. In that connection, it should be noted that certain developing countries were heavily dependent on tobacco. While opportunities for shifting to other crops were technically feasible, they were often limited by economic constraints. Therefore, in order for tobacco control measures to be successful and to command worldwide support, any special issues or concerns affecting tobacco-dependent countries and the food security of rural families must be taken into account and appropriate national and international adjustment measures would have to be promoted.

86. **Ms. De Beyer** (World Bank) said that the World Bank's work focused on economic issues related to tobacco and its control. Together with IMF and WHO, the Bank had undertaken a major effort to carefully analyse the facts and evidence. They were summarized in the report entitled *Curbing the Epidemic: Governments and the Economics of Tobacco Control*, which was being translated into 12 languages, an all-time record for any World Bank publication.

87. The World Bank was very mindful of the complex economic and social issues faced by countries that were highly dependent on tobacco and looked forward to continuing to work with other members of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control to address the many aspects of tobacco, including jobs, health, physical issues and governance, in order to formulate sound tobacco control policies in the light of the particular circumstances of each country.

88. There were over a billion smokers worldwide and not even the most aggressive efforts at reducing demand would have a significant impact on that figure for the medium and long term. Indeed, the global market for tobacco was unlikely to wither away for the foreseeable future, since there were a host of complex issues and factors involved in tobacco use, including shifts in technology, marketing strategies and changes in consumer tastes for different types of tobacco. The World Bank looked forward to continuing to work with other United Nations agencies and Governments to

reduce the deaths and disease caused by tobacco use, while addressing the complex economic and social issues involved in tobacco control.

89. **Mr. Civili** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs), reacting to a remark made by the representative of France, said that an information note on the first few months of activities of ACC for 2000 had been circulated, and he had made a comprehensive statement thereon at a special meeting of the Council devoted to reviewing the work of ACC covering that period. However, he would have that document recirculated. On the comment made by the representative of Egypt, he noted that the work on indicators was being coordinated by the Statistical Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs under the leadership of the Statistical Commission.

Organization of work

90. **Ms. Onoh** (Observer for Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, supported by **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Observer for Egypt) and **Mr. Reyes** (Observer for Cuba) expressed serious concern and profound dissatisfaction with respect to the scheduling of meetings, especially informal consultations, during the 2000 substantive session of the Council. Indeed, the scheduling was so poor that it was having a perceptible effect on the work of the Council, and that was totally unacceptable.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.