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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 28 July 2006, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. ČEKUOLIS (Lithuania)
(Vice-President)

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SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

In the absence of Mr. Hachani (Tunisia), Mr. Čekuolis (Lithuania),
Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO MAJOR UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS (continued) (A/61/90-E/2006/84, E/2006/85 and
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IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 50/227, 52/12 B and
57/270 B (continued)

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS (continued)

SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

Draft resolution on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and
coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations
conferences and summits, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B
and 57/270 B (E/2006/L.35)

The PRESIDENT noted that the draft resolution had no programme budget
implications.

Draft resolution E/2006/L.35 was adopted.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO MAJOR UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS (continued)

- (a) FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING
FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/2006/L.34)

Draft resolution on follow-up to the International Conference on financing for development
(E/2006/L.34)

The PRESIDENT noted that the draft resolution had no programme budget
implications.

Draft resolution E/2006/L.34 was adopted.

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS (continued)

- (f) INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES TASK FORCE (continued) (E/2006/63 and E/2006/L.33)

Draft resolution on the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force (E/2006/L.33)

Draft resolution E/2006/L.33 was adopted.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (continued) (E/2006/32 (Parts I and II))

The PRESIDENT said that, following informal consultations, he proposed that the Council should defer consideration of the remaining issues under agenda item 12 (“Non-governmental organizations”) to its resumed session and that the Secretariat should provide the members of the Council with full information on the applications of the three organizations concerned - the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians, the Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany and the International Lesbian and Gay Association - and on their consideration by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, including full transcripts of the Committee’s discussions and all information at the disposal of the Committee when it had considered the applications. The Council’s discussion at its resumed session would take into account the additional information provided by the Secretariat as well as the relevant proposals and debates at the current session.

Mr. JOKINEN (Observer for Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, reiterated the view that every non-governmental organization was entitled to treatment based on the principles of non-discrimination and diversity, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. In adopting a decision not to send the application of the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians back to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, and having previously rejected the draft decisions recommended by the Committee on the applications of the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians, the Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany and the International Lesbian and Gay Association, the Council had expressed a desire to bring its consideration of the item to a successful conclusion. However, if the majority was in favour of deferring consideration of the item to the resumed session of the Council in the manner described by the President, he would join the consensus on the understanding that the debate on that occasion would focus on substance.

Ms. BROWN (Canada) and Mr. FONSECA (Brazil), while regretting that the Council had not been able to come to a decision and affirming their commitment to the broad, diverse and non-discriminatory participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Council, said that they would go along with the consensus proposal of the President.

The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished to defer consideration of the item to its resumed substantive session.

It was so decided.

Mr. CAMBITSIS (Observer for Greece) wished to place on record, with reference to the granting of consultative status to the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation, that the non-governmental organization in question should use United Nations nomenclature to refer to the country in which it was located, namely, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, not only to avoid confusion as to its location but also because the name actually used was contrary to Security Council resolutions 817 and 845 of 1993 and General Assembly resolution 47/225.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS (continued)

- (a) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/2006/33, E/2006/90 and E/2006/91)

Report of the Committee for Development Policy (E/2006/33)

The PRESIDENT said he understood that, following informal consultations, it had been agreed to defer consideration of the report of the Committee for Development Policy to the Council's resumed substantive session.

It was so decided.

(b) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)
(E/2006/31 and E/2006/L.37)

Draft resolution on follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2006/L.37)

Mr. KARKLINS (Observer for Latvia) said that the phrase “including the private sector” should be inserted after “business-sector entities” in paragraph 15 (b) of the draft resolution.

Ms. PLINER (Secretary of the Council) said it was anticipated that the estimated additional resources of US\$ 42,000 required for 2007 to cover the proposed enlargement of the membership of the Commission could be absorbed within the current budget. Ongoing requirements would be taken into consideration in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

Draft resolution E/2006/L.37, as orally amended, was adopted.

Mr. MILLER (United States of America) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution E/2006/L.37 on the understanding that the multi-stakeholder approach, including the involvement of the private sector, would be fully integrated into the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development relating to the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society.

Ms. FINSKAS (Observer for Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, expressed satisfaction that the draft resolution clearly defined the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and, in particular, that it embodied the multi-stakeholder approach that had made the Geneva and Tunis phases of the summit such a remarkable success. The full and meaningful participation of all stakeholders in the work of the Commission, in line with paragraph 105 of the Tunis Agenda, was essential to the effective follow-up to the summit outcomes and to bridging the digital divide.

Ms. BROWN (Canada) said that her delegation attached great importance, in the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society, to the adoption of a participatory, flexible and open process involving all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. She was encouraged that such a process would be encouraged and promoted in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2006/31)

The PRESIDENT said he understood that, following informal consultations, it had been agreed to defer consideration of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the Council's resumed substantive session, with a view to aligning the recommendations in the report with the resolution on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society.

It was so decided.

- (g) PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)
(E/2006/44 and E/2006/L.31)

Draft resolution on the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifth session and dates, venue and provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Committee (E/2006/L.31)

The PRESIDENT informed the Council that the text contained no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/2006/L.31 was adopted.

- (h) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN TAX MATTERS (continued)
(E/2005/45, E/2006/L.12 and E/2006/L.36)

Draft resolution on the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2006/L.36)

The PRESIDENT informed the Council that draft resolution E/2006/L.36 was the outcome of informal consultations on draft resolution E/2006/L.12 and had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution E/2006/L.36 was adopted.

- (i) UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (continued) (E/2006/42 and Corr.1 and 2)

Outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (draft resolution contained in documents E/2006/42, chap. I, sect. A, and Corr.1 and 2)

The PRESIDENT called the attention of the Council to corrections made to paragraphs 5 (d), 11 (b), 29 and 31 of the draft resolution. The corrections were to be found in document E/2006/42/Corr.2, while document E/2006/42/Corr.1 contained corrections to the Russian text of the report.

Mr. O'BRIEN (Australia) proposed amending paragraph 29 by replacing the words "working group" with the words "expert group" in the second line. It was his understanding that it would then be for Governments to nominate members of the expert group.

The PRESIDENT said that a statement of programme budget implications on the draft resolution was contained in document E/2006/L.23, which had been prepared on the basis of a request for a meeting of an ad hoc open-ended working group. However, in the light of the change of name to "expert group", he asked the Secretariat for clarification.

Ms. PLINER (Secretary of the Council) said that, if the draft resolution were to be adopted as orally amended, the expert group would meet for one week in New York. Fares and daily subsistence allowance would be provided for one country expert from each developing country, as well as for one expert from countries with economies in transition. It was estimated that a total of US\$ 341,000 would be required to finance participants' travel. Specialized expertise not available in the Secretariat would be required for the preparation of a background study on the elements of a non-legally binding instrument and a paper on how the regional dimension should be incorporated into the forum's work.

The additional provisions for travel of the experts could be met in part by reprogramming resources of US\$ 132,000 intended for the holding of two expert group meetings proposed for cancellation, as could the US\$ 70,000 consultancy requirement. The balance of the cost of travel by participants was expected to be financed from the resources of the Trust Fund in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests, provided that sufficient additional contributions were received to support those activities.

Accordingly, should the draft resolution, as orally amended, be adopted, the requirements would be met from the existing appropriation under section 9, "Economic and social affairs" of the programme budget or from the aforementioned trust fund.

Mr. MAKSIMYCHEV (Russian Federation) said his delegation would join the consensus on the draft resolution so as to ensure the best possible conditions for forum's future work. He was, however, disappointed that the Council had had to reopen the discussion when consensus had already been reached. He hoped that the Secretariat would take all necessary steps to ensure that full conference-servicing was made available for the expert group meeting, including interpretation in all languages.

The draft resolution, as orally amended, was adopted.

Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its sixth session and provisional agenda for its seventh session (chap. I, sect. A, draft decision III)

The draft decision was adopted.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

(c) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued) (E/2006/30)

Strengthening of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body (E/2006/30, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I)

The PRESIDENT said he understood that more time was required for consultations on the draft resolution as well as for the preparation of a statement of programme budget implications, and proposed that the Council take note of it and refer it to the General Assembly for consideration.

Mr. JOKINEN (Observer for Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the sponsor of the draft resolution, said that it had been adopted by consensus in the Commission. For his delegation there had been no problem regarding programme budget

implications, and the concern felt by some in that respect was probably due to confusion. The European Union would have preferred to have the draft resolution adopted as planned, but would go along with the President's proposal.

The Council took note of the draft resolution and referred it to the General Assembly for consideration.

(g) HUMAN RIGHTS (continued) (E/2006/22)

The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council take note of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions, as contained in document E/2006/22.

It was so decided.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Mr. OCAMPO (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), reviewing the main achievements of the current session of the council, said that the Ministerial Declaration on Employment and Decent Work for All had identified concrete steps to further implementation of the 2005 World Summit commitment to make the goal of full and proactive employment and decent work a central objective of national and international policies. The high-level segment had shown that the Council could effectively and comprehensively address cross-cutting issues and had demonstrated its ability to promote a coherent multisectoral approach to implementing the United Nations development agenda, on which employment generation occupied a central place. The Council had also demonstrated that it could mobilize the various parts of the United Nations system to work together in order to support it in its deliberations. The timely selection of a topical theme had been crucial for achieving high-level participation and an outcome that would have a far-reaching impact.

The coordination segment had dealt with ways of translating economic growth into effective social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger, and had demonstrated the Council's coordinating role in shaping responses to challenges such as avian influenza. The triennial review of funding for development cooperation, launched during the operational activities segment, had highlighted the diverging trends in core and non-core

resource flows and the increasing complexity of funding mechanisms. In its resolution on operational activities, the Council had demonstrated its determination to provide detailed guidance to the United Nations development system, as well as guidance to the Secretariat in its assessment and analytical work.

In the humanitarian affairs segment, the Council had addressed a number of crucial issues, including gender-based violence and chronic underfunding in humanitarian emergencies and a better division of labour between itself and the General Assembly. In the general segment, the resolutions on the ad hoc advisory groups dealing with countries emerging from conflict had again established the Council's important role in long-term sustainable development in post-conflict situations, a role it should continue to strengthen while working closely with the Peacebuilding Commission. The Council had made a major breakthrough in clarifying its own role and that of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society. Agreement on a well-defined intergovernmental process would go a long way towards strengthening the United Nations role in that area.

Turning to the future role of the Council, he highlighted its role in coordinating the work of the United Nations system as a whole and in strengthening the links between the system's normative and operational activities. With regard to the new functions of the Council, he said that the annual ministerial review could become the chief mechanism for strengthening accountability in respect of commitments to internationally agreed development goals and should serve as a platform for promoting the unified implementation of the United Nations development agenda by all partners. The Development Cooperation Forum would be the first global platform where all the actors concerned could discuss key policy issues affecting multilateral, North-South and South-South development cooperation. Both of those new functions of the Council could revitalize the role assigned to it under the Charter of the United Nations as the body responsible for coordinating the activities of the specialized agencies. To ensure, however, that it fulfilled those functions effectively, a number of steps needed to be taken urgently: the General Assembly resolution on the Economic and Social Council must be finalized expeditiously; the preparatory process relating to the Council's new functions must be launched at the intergovernmental level and within the United Nations system; and the authorities of Member States, particularly ministers, must be made aware of the importance of those new

functions. The Council was at a critical transitional period in its work and needed to be bold and ambitious if it wished to significantly improve its influence and become a genuine “parliament for global development”, thereby reinforcing the image of the United Nations as the advocate of the poor, the deprived and the destitute.

The PRESIDENT said that the current session had put productive employment and decent work squarely at the forefront of the development agenda by adopting a ministerial declaration that contained concrete measures to address unemployment. Employment had thus been recognized as a critical element in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Council had also addressed such topics as avian influenza, thus demonstrating that it could help forewarn the international community about such crises and coordinate responses to them in keeping with the mandate given to it by the 2005 World Summit. In addition, its work on gender-based violence and underfunded emergencies would no doubt make a palpable impact on the alleviation of suffering around the world.

For the first time, the Council had addressed some of the most complex issues related to funding flows for development cooperation. It had laid a sound foundation for the triennial comprehensive review in 2007. The lessons it had learned through the activities of its ad hoc advisory groups on countries emerging from conflict should be shared with the newly established Peacebuilding Commission.

The Council had also taken on new functions. Its annual ministerial reviews could make it the new hub for accountability in the implementation of the United Nations development agenda, while the Development Cooperation Forum would help promote policy coherence. Such functions would make it possible to engage political decision makers, as well as a broad range of actors from civil society and the private sector.

Following an exchange of courtesies, he declared the substantive session of the Council suspended.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.