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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Wednesday, 25 July 2007 at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. MÉRORÈS (Haiti)  
(Vice-President)

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

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

- (b) SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (E/2007/26, A/62/61-E/2007/7)
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UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTES (continued) (E/2007/60)

Mr. MILLER (United States of America) said that the reform of the methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development had been successful, and that body was now producing outcomes that were highly relevant to important issues addressed by the Council. Unfortunately, the same could not be said for the Commission for Social Development. At its forty-fifth session in February of that year, there had been many expressions of dissatisfaction with the working methods of the Commission, particularly the manner in which draft resolution A - Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (E/2007/26) - had been adopted. At the time, his delegation had expressed concerns that the document had contained extensive oral amendments and had not been fully translated, and it had disassociated itself from parts of the text. The fact that the Council was, in effect, now expected to endorse that text without first fully discussing it raised a general concern with regard to the Council's approach to the work of its subordinate bodies. The draft resolution covered a

number of broad topics, including HIV/AIDS, and the fact that the language used on that subject did not match that used in the Council's recently negotiated resolution on HIV/AIDS meant that if the Council were to recommend the Commission's draft resolution, it would create internal inconsistencies within its own work. He expressed the hope that the Council would, in the future, be given the opportunity to discuss any substantive resolutions in depth before being asked to endorse them.

Mr. LU Guiming (China) said that the Chinese Government was committed to building a harmonious society in which the elderly, disabled persons and young people shared the benefits of economic and social development. In order to better promote harmonious social development at the national level, all countries must enhance the link between employment and growth and develop social security systems suited to their national needs. The international community must cooperate and exchange experiences in that area. His delegation supported the active role played by the Commission for Social Development.

His delegation welcomed the 2006 report (E/INCB/2006/1) of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), which gave an objective analysis of the challenges faced in that field, and supported the activities undertaken by the Board in addressing them. He commended the support provided by the Board to facilitate exchanges and cooperation between countries in the area of drug regulation, particularly in terms of providing important information to prevent the entry of narcotics into illegal channels. He said that China was interested in intensifying cooperation with the Board.

Mr. EKANAYAKE (Sri Lanka), responding to remarks made earlier by the Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees under agenda item 14 (e), and recalling statements of a similar nature made during the humanitarian affairs segment by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Humanitarian Coordinator, deplored the practice of categorizing countries by cluster, which had led to Sri Lanka being equated with four countries facing completely different humanitarian situations. As an important partner in the inter-agency representation on two high-level policy-making bodies concerned with internally displaced persons and humanitarian assistance, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was fully aware of local conditions and the situation on the ground in Sri Lanka. The well-structured public service sector of Sri Lanka played a vital role in coordinating and

providing humanitarian assistance, and the authorities granted the humanitarian partners of Sri Lanka the access necessary to conduct their work, while bearing security considerations in mind.

The President of Sri Lanka had met the High Commissioner for Refugees twice over the previous year, and had discussed all aspects of the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka, including the provision of protection and assistance to those affected by the internal conflict. The delegation of Sri Lanka therefore requested UNHCR and other humanitarian partners to acknowledge the well-established structures and practices of Sri Lanka, which was a vibrant democracy and not a failing State, and to refrain from equating his country's situation with others in no way comparable.

Mr. HAYEE (Pakistan), responding to the statement of the representative of the United States wished to place on record that the amendments to the draft resolution entitled Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond in the report of the Commission for Social Development had been made by the Secretariat prior to the document's adoption. Contrary to the statement by the delegation of the United States, Pakistan - representing the Group of 77 and China - had not expressed any concern about the work or the working methods of the Commission. He furthermore recalled that the United States had participated in the working group that had agreed on the text concerned by consensus, and that its delegation had made no mention of dissociating itself from the corresponding draft resolution.

Ms. GUSYNINA (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) highlighted the convergence of the Federation's work with that of the Council, the specialized agencies, functional commissions and other branches of the United Nations system. The thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, bringing together in November 2007 the Federation, States parties to the Geneva conventions and the International Committee of the Red Cross, would be centred on the theme "Together for humanity", which had been chosen in the belief that the humanitarian challenges facing the world were such that no single actor could meet them alone.

The intention in the choice of the conference's theme was not to duplicate the work being carried out by the United Nations and other international bodies but rather to highlight the

humanitarian consequences of those challenges, which had not had sufficient visibility, particularly at the national level in some countries. The four issues for debate were: environmental hazards, including climate change; migration; violence; and emergent and recurring diseases. In addition, the conference would address the role of National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, international humanitarian law and international disaster response laws, rules and principles. The conference's approach to those issues would take account of the relevant work carried out in the Council, its functional commissions and related agencies. It was hoped that preparation for the conference at the national level would include a discussion of national priorities in all countries, involving Governments and the National Societies.

Mr. MATTHIAS (Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice) recalled that the Interagency Panel had been established by Council Resolution 1997/30 to act as a coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice. Current membership comprised the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Defence for Children International, Penal Reform International, Save the Children UK, Terre des hommes - aide à l'enfance, and the World Organisation against Torture.

The Panel welcomed the draft resolution of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice entitled "Supporting national efforts for child justice reform, in particular through technical assistance and improved United Nations system-wide coordination", under consideration by the Council. In particular, the Panel supported the draft resolution's focus on comprehensive national action plans on crime prevention and child justice reform that set specific targets for the reduction of detention of children. It also welcomed the resolution's explicit support for the work of the Panel. The Panel acknowledged the request contained in the draft resolution to its members to provide assistance to Member States, on request, in the area of child justice, subject to extrabudgetary resources. He underlined that the Panel had sought to increase its cooperation and effectiveness on juvenile justice issues by establishing a permanent secretariat based in Geneva. He encouraged the Council to adopt the draft resolution to support national efforts for child justice reform.

Ms. VAURY (Comisión Jurídica para el Autodesarrollo de los Pueblos Originarios Andinos) said that her organization had participated in all of the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Referring to the recommendations contained in the report of the sixth session of the Forum (E/2007/43-E/C.19/2007/12), she highlighted in particular the assertion that land rights, access to land and control over it and its resources were central to indigenous peoples throughout the world, and that they depended on such rights and access for their material and cultural survival. She also drew attention to the recommendation that projects that affected the land and natural resources in indigenous territory should not be implemented without the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, which was in line with article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. She drew the Council's attention to the concluding observations adopted by the Human Rights Committee at its last session in respect of the periodic report of Chile (CCPR/C/CHL/CO/5), which included a recommendation that the ancestral lands of indigenous peoples should be recognized, and that indigenous communities should be consulted before granting licences for the economic exploitation of disputed lands. The Council should take account of the substantive link between the report of the Permanent Forum and the jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee.

Ms. BREINES (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) said that UNESCO welcomed the adoption of the Programme of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, and in particular the call addressed to all actors to implement the Action Plan of the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. The document reflected the spirit of the Declaration, which emphasized that cultural diversity was the basis of sustainable development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

The 2005 publication "UNESCO and Indigenous Peoples: Partnership to Promote Cultural Diversity" outlined the kinds of activities that UNESCO would pursue during the second decade, and included a review of the lessons learned from the first decade and recommendations specifically addressed to UNESCO in the United Nations Programme for Action. The recommendations, which had a strong focus on culture and education, would be addressed

through a number of existing and new sectoral and intersectoral programmes in areas such as intercultural education, linking indigenous knowledge systems, cultural mapping, indigenous languages, and HIV/AIDS prevention. UNESCO would also continue its efforts to mainstream indigenous issues so that indigenous peoples would benefit from UNESCO's programme as a whole, particularly in areas such as normative action to promote cultural diversity, the rehabilitation of human dignity, and the regeneration of traditional cultures. The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, the Water for Life programme and the World Programme for Human Rights Education provided important frameworks for UNESCO to address the concerns and aspirations of indigenous peoples.

The UNESCO intersectoral team established during the first decade would continue its consultation and collaboration with the secretariat and members of the Permanent Forum, the inter-agency support group on indigenous issues and relevant civil society partners to design further activities to be carried out during the second decade with the consent of the indigenous communities concerned. Collaboration with OHCHR on the Indigenous Fellowship Programme was ongoing, as were inter-agency discussions on initiating joint action in the area of developing indigenous cultural indicators and promoting indigenous cultural expressions. UNESCO stood ready to discuss with the secretariat of the Forum the possibility of undertaking mid-term and end-of-term reviews of its contribution to the goals of the Second Decade.

Mr. EMAFO (International Narcotics Control Board), responding to the representative of Bolivia, said that the Board had no reason to discriminate against the Government and people of Bolivia. The Board was committed to dialogue and working with governments to ensure that the world was free of harmful drugs. The Board commended the Bolivian Government for the eradication of some hectares of coca bush, and urged it to continue such work so that Bolivia could be rid of illicit cultivation of coca bush. With regard to the study carried out by the University of Harvard mentioned by the representative of Bolivia, he pointed out that the authors of that report had not been commenting on the active ingredient of coca bush, and that coca leaf was regarded as a narcotic drug under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. He reported that the Bolivian Government had invited the Board to meet in September to discuss those issues.

(e) UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Draft decision E/2007/L.17

Mr. FEYDER (Luxembourg), introducing draft decision E/2007/L.17 on enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, co-sponsored by Benin, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Luxembourg, said that the draft decision invited the Council to take note of the requests submitted to the Secretary-General by the four sponsoring countries and to recommend that the General Assembly, at its sixty-second session, decide on the question of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee from 72 to 76 States. He expressed the hope that the Council would adopt the draft decision, which was essentially procedural in nature, by consensus.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council would take action on the draft decision the next day.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fiftieth session (E/2007/28)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolutions and decisions contained in Chapter I of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2007/28).

Draft resolution I: The need for a balance between demand for and supply of opiates used to meet medical and scientific needs

Draft resolution I was adopted.

Draft resolution II: Improvement of drug abuse data collection by Member States in order to enhance data reliability and the comparability of information provided

Draft resolution II was adopted.

Draft resolution III: Support to the counter-narcotic measures and programmes of Afghanistan

Draft resolution III was adopted.

Draft resolution IV: Strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Draft resolution IV was adopted.

Draft decision I: Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fiftieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session of the Commission

The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to information on the programme budget implications of the draft decision, which had been circulated to all members.

Draft decision I was adopted.

Draft decision II: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

Draft decision II was adopted.

Action on decisions contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its sixth session (E/2007/43)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the decisions contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its sixth session (E/2007/43). Draft decisions I and II had programme budget implications, a statement on which had been circulated to all members.

Draft decision I: International expert group meeting on indigenous languages

Draft decision I was adopted.

Draft decision II: Venue and dates of the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Draft decision II was adopted.

Draft decision III: Provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Draft decision III was adopted.

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS (continued)

## (d) LONG-TERM PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT FOR HAITI

Draft resolution: Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2007/L.18)

The PRESIDENT said that the draft resolution had programme budget implications, details of which had been circulated to all members. Bolivia, Cape Verde, El Salvador, Paraguay and the Philippines would be added to the list of co-sponsors.

Mr. ADSETT (Canada) introduced the draft resolution on an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, which he hoped would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution E/2007/L.18 was adopted.

Mr. ALVES (Brazil) said that there was an historical link between Brazil and Haiti, and Haiti was one of the main beneficiaries of Brazilian aid. His delegation welcomed the adoption, without a vote, of the draft resolution, and hoped that it would mark a move forward to peace in Haiti.

The PRESIDENT, speaking in his capacity as the representative of Haiti, welcomed the collaboration between the United Nations and the international community that had led to the adoption of the resolution, which he hoped would help overcome the difficulties that Haiti had faced for a number of years.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)Statements in exercise of the right of reply

Mr. JAZAÏRY (Algeria), referring to a discussion that had taken place during the thirty-ninth meeting (E/2007/SR.39), said that he was disappointed to note that the written submission presented by the delegation of Morocco, intended to clarify the nature of that

discussion, did not include the accusations that had been made against the delegation of Algeria by the Moroccan representative, on the subject of the Western Sahara. Since the incendiary remarks had been deleted from the written statement, it was not a true representation of the discussion that had taken place.

Mr. LOULICHKI (Morocco) said he regretted that the written statement supplied by the delegation of Algeria was not an accurate representation of the Algerian representative's oral intervention regarding the Western Sahara during the thirty-ninth meeting. It would be hypocritical of the Algerian representative to accuse Morocco of altering its statement when his delegation had in fact altered its own written submission.

Mr. JAZAÏRY (Algeria) suggested that the secretariat of the Council could produce a transcript of the recording of the thirty-ninth meeting, in order to settle the dispute.

Mr. LOULICHKI (Morocco) agreed that such a transcript could solve the issue, provided it was produced in a neutral, unbiased manner.

The PRESIDENT said that he agreed that the matter could be solved by producing a transcript of the recording of the thirty-ninth meeting, and said that the secretariat would ensure that such a transcript was an accurate representation of the discussion that had taken place.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REPERCUSSIONS OF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION ON THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, INCLUDING JERUSALEM, AND THE ARAB POPULATION IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN (continued)**

Draft resolution: Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (E/2007/L.26)

The PRESIDENT said that Sri Lanka should be deleted from the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

Ms. OSMAN (Sudan), introducing the draft resolution (E/2007/L.26) said that the Israeli occupation had resulted in high unemployment levels and rampant poverty in the occupied territories. The draft contained a number of paragraphs that were the same as those contained in previous resolutions on the issue, as well as new paragraphs that took account of the

contemporary situation. The text reaffirmed the principle that the occupied peoples should have ownership of their institutions and that the separation wall that had been built constituted a violation of international law. She hoped that the draft would be adopted by consensus.

The PRESIDENT announced that South Africa would be added to the list of co-sponsors. In the absence of any objections, he took it that the meeting agreed to suspend the adoption of the draft resolution until the forty-fifth meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.