

**Economic and Social Council**

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Provisional summary record of the 41st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 23 July 2008, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Hoscheit (Vice-President) (Luxembourg)**Contents**Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

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In the absence of Mr. Mèrorès (Haiti), Mr. Hoscheit (Luxembourg), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)
(E/2008/77)

- (a) **Sustainable development** (E/2008/29; E/2008/33)
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- (j) **Cartography** (E/2007/89; E/CONF.98/136)

1. **Ms. Johnson** (Committee for Development Policy), introducing the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its tenth session (E/2008/33), said that at its March 2008 session, the Committee had addressed three major themes: implementing the internationally agreed goals on sustainable development, the need for a development-supportive international financial architecture and the methodology for identifying the least developed countries.

2. In addressing the first theme, the Committee had considered how climate change could affect the achievement of sustainable development goals and had reported its findings and recommendations to the 2008 high-level segment of the Council. In particular, it believed that achieving the Millennium Development Goals while dealing with climate change required access by developing countries to sufficient funds and knowledge and the development of new technologies.

3. The Committee's analysis of the second theme had also been presented to the Council at the high-level segment. With developing countries suffering from the negative impact of external shocks, the existing compensatory financing architecture required urgent reform in order to reduce the need for those countries to maintain high levels of international reserves and to

prevent economically and socially painful losses in employment and output.

4. With regard to the third theme, the Committee had confirmed the current approach used in identifying countries for inclusion in the list of least developed countries, which required the country to fall below the threshold levels on three criteria: gross national income per capita, the human assets index and the economic vulnerability index. Having reviewed several proposed refinements in the measures to be used in the 2009 triennial review of the list, it had concluded that the current procedures for identification of the least developed countries were based on the best available methods and information.

5. As regards graduation, the rules were that a country needed to fail to meet two, rather than only one, of the three inclusion criteria in order to be eligible for graduation; the thresholds for graduation were higher than those for inclusion and the country must be found eligible at two successive triennial reviews in order to be recommended for graduation. Those rules aimed to ensure that a country graduating from the list would be able to sustain progress with minimal risk of its development being disrupted.

6. Guided by paragraph 1 of Council resolution 2007/35, the Committee had thoroughly assessed a suggestion that it should be made compulsory for a country to meet the economic vulnerability index threshold in order to be considered for graduation, but it had concluded that the criteria should be left unchanged since a country could still attain steady economic growth even if it scored a high economic vulnerability index. The vulnerability profile conducted for countries found eligible for graduation for the first time should give the overall background of a country's economy and development situation, while the impact assessment should address the expected implications of the loss of least-developed-country status. In that regard, it was important for the development partners of the countries concerned to provide information on the likely treatment extended to the country if graduation became effective.

7. Since countries identified for graduation were often uncertain about the implications of losing the benefits of least-developed-country status, the Committee had proposed that an expert group should be convened to consider how the special support measures available for such countries might be phased

out in a predictable and orderly way so as not to disrupt their development. The Committee would also continue to monitor the development progress of graduated countries and would report its findings to the Council when it presented the triennial review of the list of least developed countries.

8. **Mr. Seth** (Director, Office of Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (E/2008/54), said that the report had been prepared in response to Council decision 2007/264, in which the Council had requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and relevant intergovernmental entities, to evaluate the continued usefulness for Member States of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments.

9. When the consolidated list had been mandated in 1982 in order to disseminate information available within the United Nations system on products harmful to health and the environment, such information had not been widely circulated; more recently, the secretariats of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal had begun to provide information, by electronic or other means, that was much more detailed and accessible than that included in the list, rendering its continued publication redundant.

10. Member States and relevant intergovernmental entities had also been asked, pursuant to Council decision 2007/264, to submit their views on the continued usefulness of the Consolidated List. Very few responses had been received, which, in the Secretary-General's opinion, pointed to the diminishing value attached to the publication. His report therefore recommended the elimination of the mandate of regularly updating the list, as contained in General Assembly resolution 37/137.

11. **Ms. Gebre-Egziabher** (Director, New York Office, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on coordinated implementation of the Habitat

Agenda (E/2008/64), said that the report highlighted major new developments and milestones with a focus on outcomes and results and provided an analysis of their underlying rationale and processes. The report covered major decisions of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat; emerging responses to the challenges of rapid urbanization; human settlements and crises; and the initial results of "delivering as one", among other issues.

12. One of the key decisions of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council had been approval of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan, which sought to enhance the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda with the vision of creating, by 2013, the necessary conditions for more sustainable urbanization, including efforts to arrest slum growth. The Secretary-General's report set out the plan's strategic objectives, as well as detailing the focus areas on which UN-Habitat would concentrate for the period 2008-2013.

13. The systematic collection and analysis of scientific data on urban trends and issues over the past decade had provided the impetus for an emerging system-wide response in support of coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda. As other funds, programmes and agencies began to consider the impact of urbanization and urban growth in their respective areas of focus, there had been a substantial increase in joint activities. The report provided an overview of those coordinated responses.

14. The most pressing issues that had emerged in the last 12 months — climate change and the food crisis — were, on closer analysis, related to unsustainable patterns of urbanization. There could be no discussion of adaptation to and mitigation of climate change without focusing on cities, which represented half of the world's population but accounted for over 75 per cent of energy consumption and a similar percentage of waste, including greenhouse gas emissions. The urban poor would be worst affected by the food crisis since they could not produce food for their subsistence. The rise in the demand for energy, one of the contributing factors of the rise in food prices, also coincided with the scale and pace of urbanization. UN-Habitat therefore proposed that the Council should include sustainable urbanization, with a major focus on urban poverty, as a cross-cutting issue within the existing social, economic and environmental pillars for sustainable development.

15. **Mr. Hunte** (Observer for Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, reiterated the need to address the issue of sustainable development in a holistic and balanced manner, giving equal emphasis to the three pillars of economic development, social development and environmental protection. Discussions at the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in which the Group of 77 and China had participated, had reinforced the interlinked and mutually reinforcing nature of the issues in the thematic cluster for the 2008-2009 cycle: agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. During that session, the Group had stressed the need for renewed commitment to the Rio principles and had called for decisive action in addressing implementation gaps with regard to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Since developing countries still faced significant obstacles and constraints in their efforts to make further gains in sustainable-development-related areas, full implementation of commitments was critical to achieving the international development agenda.

16. The crises facing the international community, including climate change, the food and energy crises, financial turmoil and the prospect of a global economic recession, had compounded the development challenges for developing countries. In particular, there was an urgent need for strengthened climate change adaptation strategies in those countries; mitigation actions by both developed and developing countries, on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities, were also critical to achieving sustainable development goals. Since such actions would require increased financing and technology transfer, full implementation of the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Transfer and Capacity-building was vital.

17. Notwithstanding the new challenges to sustainable development that had emerged, the Council should also prioritize long-standing challenges such as the unfair trading policies of the developed countries, including the use of agricultural subsidies. The Council could also serve as a catalyst for the international community to better support developing countries' efforts to integrate sustainable development into their economic policymaking and planning. It was the Council's role to ensure that the Commission on Sustainable Development fulfilled its mandate of promoting further implementation of Agenda 21,

identifying constraints on implementation and making recommendations for overcoming them. In particular, the Group of 77 hoped that the Commission would, at its 2009 policy session, issue action-orientated policy recommendations to address the shortfall in the areas of financial assistance and technology transfer.

18. **Mr. Hunte** (Observer for Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on the issue of statistics, said that the Group considered full and effective implementation of the agreed goals and commitments of major United Nations conferences and summits to be of the highest priority. For that reason, at the most recent session of the Statistical Commission, it had emphasized the need to build on General Assembly resolution 60/265; follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and the other internationally agreed development goals, in order to establish a sound legislative framework for a more structured and coherent approach to implementing those goals. Governments should agree on the monitoring and follow-up mechanisms referred to in resolution 60/265 and the Organization in general and the Council, the Statistical Commission and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators in particular, should increase their efforts to develop a coherent and integrated system of implementation indicators based on intergovernmental consensus and the mandate of the Statistical Commission should be strengthened in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and 60/265 and Council resolution 2006/6.

19. While some indicators of progress existed for the first seven MDGs, the Organization had yet to establish benchmarks and targets in order to measure progress towards establishing a global partnership for development (Goal 8). The Group therefore looked forward to receiving from the Secretary-General an update on indicators to monitor implementation of the MDGs at the next session of the Statistical Commission, as indicated in the latter's decision 39/114 on development indicators.

20. **Mr. Mohamed** (Iraq), speaking on the issue of sustainable development, said that such development provided a basis for the social and economic well-being and prosperity that peoples desired for themselves, for future generations, for the equitable and rational use of natural resources and for the protection of the environment. Although Iraq had

undertaken to put in place the appropriate plans and strategies and had provided for environmental impact assessments, those considerations had been pushed into the background by war, the economic embargo and the deterioration of infrastructures. As a result, achieving sustainable development would require time, effort and resources; long-term planning; coordination with neighbouring countries; and the latest environmentally sound technology for production, distribution, consumption and energy generation and use.

21. In order to make its environmental action an integral part of international efforts, Iraq had become or was in the process of becoming a signatory to the appropriate international agreements in order to contribute to improving the environment at the international, regional and national levels. It hoped that the international community would support its efforts to address the after-effects of decades of war on its people, its soil and its agriculture by providing training, expertise, capacity-building and technology.

22. **Mr. Sumirat** (Indonesia), speaking on the issue of sustainable development, said that his delegation was encouraged at countries' efforts to incorporate economic, social and environmental principles into their development approaches and strategies despite the difficulties, such as the current food crisis, climate change and the slowing of the global economy, which threatened to make their efforts unsustainable and to reverse much of the progress made in reducing poverty and achieving the MDGs.

23. The discussion of agriculture, rural development, land use, drought, desertification and Africa at the May 2008 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development had been timely and should lead to the development of substantive policies. For many developing countries, sustainable development depended on financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer. Agriculture, the main source of livelihood for their rural inhabitants, was in need of revitalization through greater investment, new technologies, better access to land and inputs and urgent reform of policies at the national and global levels. Developed countries' trade-distorting subsidies, tariff peaks and tariff escalation in areas of significance to developing countries should be eliminated.

24. Lastly, in order to produce genuine benefits for the poor and to enable them to deal effectively with issues such as climate change and the food and energy

crises, the framework for sustainable development should be better formulated, including through an intersectoral approach incorporating macroeconomic, trade, environment, population and education policies.

25. **Ms. Valiente Díaz** (Cuba), speaking on the issue of sustainable development, said that for over 16 years, her Government had been warning the world about the dangers facing humanity; those warnings had become a harsh reality that affected rich and poor without distinction. The general consensus at the most recent session of the Commission on Sustainable Development had been that the current global food crisis was being aggravated by, inter alia, the exorbitant price of oil; climate change and poor climatic conditions in major food-producing regions; the degradation of key natural resources; the reduction in global food stocks; and the diversion of grains and cereals for biofuel production by developed countries.

26. The food crisis concerned a growing number of countries and was recognized by both experts and institutions, including the World Bank. According to the Bank's World Development Report 2008, the burgeoning demand for agricultural feedstocks for biofuels had already pushed up world food prices. The real cause, however, was the fact that a handful of industrialized countries enjoyed a life of opulence and consumerism while the overwhelming majority of humanity lived in poverty.

27. Simply to deny development to those most in need was not a solution. States had common but differentiated responsibilities; those that were hoarding wealth and technology and were responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions must bear the lion's share in that regard. The European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid had recently acknowledged that development aid figures for 2007 had been way off target. European official development assistance (ODA) had fallen from 0.41 per cent to 0.38 per cent of gross national income (GNI); in real terms, that meant that the world's poor had been more than €1.7 billion worse off than in 2006. Such figures were unacceptable. Developed countries must mobilize additional resources to assist developing countries in their adaptation efforts, honour the mitigation-related commitments they had made in the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and establish mechanisms for technology transfer to developing countries.

28. If the international community really wanted to tackle the energy crisis and climate change, it must urge developed countries to change their unsustainable production and consumption patterns, honour their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol without introducing any new conditionalities, and set more ambitious emissions reduction targets under the programme adopted at the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change held in Bali in December 2007.

29. **Ms. Ovcharenko** (Russian Federation) said that strengthening the Commission on Sustainable Development would help ensure that decisions taken in United Nations forums were translated into action as a cooperative undertaking. The Commission should abide by the Organization's established practices in the constitution and operation of its bureau and the planning of its programme of work. In the coming year, it should make recommendations on the topical issues of agriculture, rural development, land use, and drought and desertification and should avoid repeating the negative experience of its fifteenth session (2007).

30. Turning to the issue of statistics and emphasizing the Statistical Commission's important coordinating role in setting international standards, she welcomed the recent adoption of new system of national accounts and of recommendations on statistics in the fields of industry, tourism and the wholesale and retail trade. The unprecedented scale of work in the most recent round of the International Comparison Programme was a great achievement and would provide a template for the optimum planning of international statistics activity in the future. The Commission's proceedings should remain technical and free of gratuitous politicization, particularly monitoring achievement of the MDGs.

31. Lastly, on the issue of population and development, she said that the outcome of the forty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development had been positive overall, particularly from the point of view of issues surrounding population distribution and urbanization. She hoped that future discussions would focus on the core matters of the session and disregard peripheral questions.

32. **Mr. Khaleel** (Observer for the Maldives), speaking on the issue of sustainable development, said that while the General Assembly had decided to graduate the Maldives from the list of least developed countries in December 2004, it had deferred the

beginning of the three-year transition period until 2008 because of the extensive damage caused by the 2004 tsunami. As a small island developing State, the Maldives had particular vulnerabilities and faced ongoing environmental degradation. Its already fragile economy was suffering the added pressure of the world economic slowdown and food and energy crises.

33. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/209 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, the Maldives had already formed a consultative mechanism with its development and trading partners. The 2007 Partnership Forum had focused on investment opportunities and adapting to climate change and the 2008 Partnership Forum would address the issues of graduation and the establishment of economic policies and strategies to tackle the challenges of middle-income-country status. As the Council and the General Assembly had stressed repeatedly that graduation should not affect the development of the countries concerned, the Council should monitor their situation carefully during and after graduation.

34. **Mr. Soomro** (Pakistan), speaking on the issues of sustainable development and environment, said that developing countries faced the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, suffering the consequences of man-made and natural disasters for which they bore the least responsibility. Sustainable development was possible only within a strategic framework encompassing economic growth, social development and environmental protection; however, developing countries must cope with competing needs caused by current circumstances and external influences. They must maintain high levels of growth in order to eradicate poverty and ensure dignity, create the infrastructure needed to ensure that the benefits of growth were sustainable and equitably distributed and respond to the impact of and needs arising from climate change and environmental damage.

35. Despite the principles, agendas and action plans adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2007 United Nations Climate Change Conference, and despite the discussions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, there was still no integrated model that could ensure sustained growth of 7 per cent to 8 per cent and carbon-free development. Even at a

time when developing countries were turning to carbon-free economies and adopting alternative sources of energy, the States members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) were being pressed to increase their output of fossil fuels.

36. Only the establishment of national models offering the desired rate of growth could lead to a global model that met the needs of development and sustainable growth simultaneously, placing development first. Developing countries currently had too little access to carbon-friendly technology and no assurance that such technology would be affordable. Rather than continuing inaction, a concerted effort to evaluate both needs and shortfalls in meeting them must be made.

37. **Mr. Hart** (Barbados), speaking on the issue of sustainable development, recalled that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had recognized a distinct category of small island developing States; however, that resistance to the establishment of an ambitious programme targeting those States had followed. The Barbados Programme of Action, which had come into being despite that resistance, had made the United Nations, its Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Commission on Sustainable Development responsible for follow-up measures. Those mandates had subsequently been reaffirmed and strengthened by the Mauritius Declaration and Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

38. However, a lack of resources was hampering implementation and resulting in the severe understaffing of the Small Island Developing States unit within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at a time of economic, social and environmental vulnerability for the States concerned. Climate change and rising sea levels endangered their sustainable development, and even their existence since they must also cope with the impact of the global food and oil crises caused by factors outside their control.

39. Small island developing States must lead and own their development. Barbados had thoroughly reviewed its implementation of the Mauritius Strategy across all sectors and had found that over 75 per cent success had

been achieved, despite the lack of support from the international community. However, all small island developing States needed to work with the international community to find lasting solutions to their challenges through renewed responsibility, strengthened commitment, deeper partnership and more effective implementation of commitments.

40. **Mr. Falatar** (Observer for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) said that UNESCO had first sounded the alarm over the need for sustainable development in 1968, when it had organized a conference questioning the world's unbridled exploitation of nature. Since its inception, UNESCO had developed a number of international programmes aimed at better assessing and managing the Earth's resources, including the International Hydrological Programme, the Man and the Biosphere Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

41. In the field of natural sciences UNESCO strengthened developing countries' capacities in the sciences, engineering and technology by providing data, advice and technical assistance aimed at helping governments formulate and implement effective policies and strategies. Since 1976, it had assigned biosphere reserve status to areas nominated by Member States; such reserves were learning laboratories for sustainable living that were used to demonstrate techniques for conserving biodiversity. Sustainability was attained through research, training, education, monitoring and community participation in governance and management. There were currently 529 such reserves in 105 countries.

42. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) supported United Nations agencies and Member States in implementing the many provisions on the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands contained in Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the relevant General Assembly resolutions. It had also established the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS), which oversaw and coordinated global and regional sea level networks in support of climate, oceanographic and coastal sea level research. In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), IOC was implementing the Adaptation to Climate Change in Coastal Zones (ACCC) project in Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and

Senegal; the project aimed to perform adaptation actions in pilot sites particularly vulnerable to natural climate changes and anthropogenic degradation and to formulate national and regional adaptation strategies aimed at managing the impact of shoreline changes within the framework of integrated coastal area management.

43. With regard to ocean observation, the development of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) by IOC, in co-sponsorship with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Council for Science (ICSU), was making good progress. IOC was also helping protect the marine environment by leading, jointly with UNEP, the current phase of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects. That phase, which would end in 2009, focused on the compilation and harmonization of existing assessments of the marine environment on a regional scale in preparation for the establishment of a regular global process. IOC was also currently chairing the UN-Oceans mechanism.

44. In respect of early warning systems for tsunamis and other marine hazards, IOC had established intergovernmental coordination groups for the Indian Ocean, the North-Eastern Atlantic, the Mediterranean and connected seas, and the Caribbean Sea and adjacent regions, as well as an ad hoc Working Group to prepare a framework for a global tsunami and other ocean-related hazards early warning system.

45. If the challenges currently facing the world were to be addressed effectively, education must be used to promote knowledge, values and skills and enable attitudinal and behavioural changes at the individual and institutional levels. As coordinating agency, UNESCO had been actively promoting the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) by working with Member States, the private sector, civil society and other United Nations agencies to improve access to quality basic education, reorient existing education programmes, develop public understanding and awareness and provide training. It was also mobilizing its global network of UNESCO Chairs and Associated Schools with a focus on aligning itself with national capacity-building in such areas as education planning and

management, teacher, technical and vocational training and non-formal and distance education.

46. In order to achieve sustainable growth, it was also necessary to address the cultural and social effects of development and certain sensitive and ethical issues. The International Bioethics Committee was the only international body dealing with bioethics, while the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) had helped identify the ethical issues involved, detect early signs of risk to society and establish principles and guidelines that could inspire policy choices.

47. Culture played a crucial role in national and international development frameworks. It encouraged economic and social development, contributed to poverty eradication and sustainable development and played an increasingly important economic role as a productive sector. Above all, cultural diversity was a collective force for development. The MDGs would never be attained in a sustainable manner unless the cultural dimension underpinning every society in the world was addressed.

48. **Mr. Seth** (Director, Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination), responding to the concerns raised by the Group of 77 and China, said that the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Gap Task Force, established by the Secretary-General in 2007, was in the process of examining the indicators relating to Goal 8 of the MDGs in order to identify gaps in implementation of the global partnership for development. Once it had finished its work, the Task Force would issue a report, which would provide crucial input to the high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals to be held in September 2008; the challenge was to see how it could also be used to enrich the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and the discussions held in the context of the annual ministerial review. He hoped that once the report was ready, a modality could be found for submitting it to the Council and, if appropriate, the Statistical Commission in order to give them an opportunity to discuss how the relevant indicators might be developed further.

(a) Sustainable development (*continued*) (E/2008/29; E/2008/L.23)

Recommendation entitled "Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixteenth session and provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission" (E/2008/29)

49. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixteenth session and provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixteenth session (E/2008/29).

50. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Draft resolution entitled "Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its tenth session" (E/2008/L.23)

51. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

52. *Draft resolution E/2008/L.23 was adopted.*

(c) Statistics (*continued*) (E/2008/24)

Recommendation entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission" (E/2008/24)

53. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-ninth session (E/2008/24).

54. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(d) Human settlements (*continued*) (E/2008/L.24)

Draft decision entitled "Human settlements" (E/2008/L.24)

55. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

56. *Draft decision E/2008/L.24 was adopted.*

(e) Environment (*continued*) (A/63/25; E/2008/L.21)

Draft resolution entitled "Protection against products harmful to health and the environment" (E/2008/L.21)

57. **The President** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

58. *Draft resolution E/2008/L.21 was adopted.*

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on its tenth special session (A/63/25)

59. **The President** suggested that the Council should take note of the report.

60. *It was so decided.*

(f) Population and development (*continued*) (E/2008/25)

Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-first session and provisional agenda for its forty-second session" (E/2008/25)

61. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-first session and provisional agenda for its forty-second session", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-first session (E/2008/25).

62. *The draft decision was adopted.*

(i) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (*continued*)

63. **The President** informed the Council that no advance documentation had been submitted under the agenda item and no draft proposal was before the Council. The relevant paragraph of the Council's annotated provisional agenda (E/2008/100) provided the background to and rationale for the item's continued inclusion in the Council's agenda.

- (j) **Cartography** (*continued*) (E/2007/89;
E/2008/L.25)

Draft decision entitled “Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names” (E/2008/L.25)

64. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

65. *Draft decision E/2008/L.25 was adopted.*

Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-fourth session (E/2007/89)

66. **The President** suggested that the Council should take note of the report.

67. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.