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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 21 July 2010, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Soborun (Vice-President) (Mauritius)

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In the absence of Mr. Ali (Malaysia), Mr. Soborun (Mauritius), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Economic and environmental questions (continued)
(E/2010/91-A/64/803)

- (a) **Sustainable development** (E/2010/29, E/2010/33 and E/2010/51-A/65/73; E/2010/NGO/2 and 29)
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1. **Mr. Najam** (Committee for Development Policy), introducing the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twelfth session (E/2010/33), said that the report addressed four major themes. Firstly, with regard to the impact of global crises on gender, he said that women, owing to their weaker position in the economic, legal and sociocultural spheres, were often less resilient than men to shocks created by crises. Furthermore, although Governments had responded quickly to the financial and economic crisis, their policy approaches showed little if any gender sensitivity. Gender objectives should be mainstreamed into policymaking. Failure to do so would jeopardize the achievements registered since the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace. Greater focus should be placed on employment generation for women, incentives to keep girls in school, access of women to health services, recognition of women as producers and expansion of their access to agricultural land and other assets.

2. Second, on the question of United Nations support for small island developing States, the Committee believed that, owing to shortcomings in the

design of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the capacity of monitoring and advocacy structures was limited and should be improved.

3. Third, with regard to policy coherence on climate change and the related financing mechanisms, the Committee believed that a failure of the international community to act quickly to address those issues would have severe implications for mitigation and adaptation worldwide and devastating effects for the most vulnerable countries. Funding for mitigation and adaptation was insufficient, despite a proliferation of financing mechanisms, and the financial architecture for climate change should be governed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

4. Fourth, with regard to international support measures for the least developed countries, the Committee proposed several concrete improvements to existing measures so as to make them more effective and suggested the introduction of new measures for addressing the development challenges of those countries. Some of those proposals merited consideration for inclusion in the fourth Programme of Action to be drafted at the upcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

5. When reviewing the development progress of Equatorial Guinea, Maldives and Samoa, the Committee had observed that the current economic crisis did not seem to have derailed Equatorial Guinea and Maldives from their smooth transition towards non-least developed country status. Samoa, on the other hand, had suffered human and economic losses from the tsunami that had hit the country in September 2009. Its near-term economic outlook continued to be uncertain and adequate international support was needed.

6. **Ms. Djacta** (Officer-in-Charge, 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/2010/72), said that the world was witnessing rapid and chaotic urbanization and dramatic socio-economic changes resulting in increasing poverty. The impact was particularly severe in developing countries, which were home to most of the world's 1 billion urban slum dwellers, and where one third of city dwellers lived in slums.

7. The report highlighted UN-Habitat's involvement in a wide range of collaborative arrangements and strategic partnerships with other United Nations entities, various international organizations and the public, private and civil society sectors in several regions. Those efforts were designed to, inter alia: improve the resilience of cities to climate change and help them to reduce their unsustainable ecological footprint; devise affordable housing finance mechanisms; promote urban youth-led development; prepare guidelines and related documents on access to basic services for all for distribution; tackle slums; provide cities with water and sanitation; incorporate a human settlements perspective into humanitarian assistance; and develop responses to housing, land and property rights issues arising from man-made and natural disasters.

8. UN-Habitat had continued to contribute to United Nations system efforts to increase policy coherence through its active participation in inter-agency coordination mechanisms. The report also described two flagship issues of UN-Habitat in 2009: *State of the World's Cities 2010/2011: Cities for All — Bridging the Urban Divide* and the *Global Report on Human Settlements: Planning Sustainable Cities 2009*.

9. In a rapidly urbanizing world, sustainable urbanization was synonymous with sustainable development, and social, economic and environmental dimensions must be addressed in the context in which they evolved. New approaches to development, resource allocation and decision-making were therefore required.

10. Accordingly, the report recommended that Member States should consider convening in 2016 a third United Nations Conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), as proposed in UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 22/1 and General Assembly resolution 64/207. It also recommended that Member States should participate actively in the World Urban Campaign by organizing national habitat committees, if they did not already exist, and by using World Habitat Day 2010, which coincided with the high-level segment of the Shanghai World Exposition, as an opportunity to renew their commitments to the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

11. **The President** drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General (E/2010/51-A/65/73) containing a

note by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security on the reform of the Committee and progress made towards implementation.

12. **Mr. de Luna** (Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security) said that the Committee on World Food Security was intended to serve as a central component of the evolving Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition. The reformed Committee should constitute the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all. Its new role was expected to be implemented in two phases. Phase I would include coordination at the global level, policy convergence, and support and advice to countries and regions, while in phase II the Committee would gradually take on additional roles such as coordination at the national and regional levels, promoting accountability, sharing best practices and developing a global strategic framework for food security and nutrition.

13. The new Committee was all-inclusive, as it consisted of member Governments; participants from non-governmental and civil society organizations; and observers. New structures had been put in place, including an extended Bureau and an Advisory Group with equal numbers of representatives. The Steering Committee of the High-level Panel of Experts had also recently been approved.

14. The Committee was seeking to make a realistic assessment of the global food security situation in the context of the regional and national linkages that it had started to develop. It had also already started work on the global strategic framework for food security and nutrition.

15. **Ms. Delieux** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, on the issues of sustainable development, human settlements and environment, said she wished to reiterate the need for an open and coherent process to further discuss the possible structure and substance of a 10-year

framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns before the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, taking into account the results of the Marrakech Process. The independent perspectives on the issues discussed in the report of the Committee for Development Policy (E/2010/33) provided valuable input for discussions in other forums, while the analysis of United Nations support to small island developing States would inform the preparations by Member States for the high-level review to take place during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

16. Charting a path towards sustainable urban development would require the collaboration of all parties at the local, regional, national and international levels and the inclusion of women and other groups. Democratic urban governance was important in that it relied on partnerships to implement policies that met the needs of the population. The implementation of the guidelines on decentralization and on access to basic services for all adopted by the UN-Habitat Governing Council would be particularly important, as would be the promotion of public-private partnerships as a tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Successful sustainable urban development would be environment-, climate- and gender-friendly and thereby contribute to disaster prevention. The European Union was committed to reaching a comprehensive global climate agreement at the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

17. With regard to the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (A/65/25), the European Union welcomed the adoption of the Nusa Dua Declaration, which sent important messages on climate change, the twentieth anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the issue of the green economy. It also welcomed the decision to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and was pleased that the consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives on international environmental governance had prioritized options for improvement of such governance and discussed options for broader reform.

18. **Mr. de Bassompierre** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina; the stabilization

and association process countries Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Liechtenstein and the Republic of Moldova on the issue of international cooperation in tax matters, said that efficient and fair tax systems were crucial for growth, poverty reduction, good governance and State-building. In an ever more globalized economy, particularly in the aftermath of the economic and financial crisis, it was increasingly difficult for national tax systems to operate efficiently without cooperation. The European Union had adopted communications aimed at improving exchanges of information and good practices among its own members and making it a priority to support developing countries in designing efficient and cooperative tax systems. It supported broader participation of developing countries in existing structures as well as enhanced cooperation between the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Committee of Experts, the International Tax Dialogue and the International Tax Compact, taking the needs and capacities of developing countries into account. The Union already provided support to African, Caribbean and Pacific States to participate in international tax structures and would consider supporting regional forums and other initiatives.

19. The Council had been mandated to strengthen institutional arrangements to promote cooperation in tax matters. A comprehensive report containing thorough and informed analysis, fed by consultations of Member States and relevant stakeholders, was essential so that the Council could consider ways of improving the valuable work of the Committee of Experts.

20. **Mr. Pavlichenko** (Ukraine) said that, while the Commission on Sustainable Development should retain the leading role in coordinating work on sustainable development, cooperation in that field needed to be strengthened within the United Nations system. He hoped that the Commission's current implementation cycle would be successfully completed during its nineteenth session. Given the global food crisis, the successful implementation of the outcome on sustainable agricultural development from its seventeenth session was crucial. Despite the global economic downturn, Ukraine had contributed \$580,000 to the World Food Programme in 2009 to assist those suffering from hunger and would continue to work with the United Nations system to that end.

21. Sustainable development could not be achieved without action to urgently and effectively address the impact of climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol provided a solid foundation for a future “post-Kyoto” agreement. He hoped that the climate change conference to be held in Cancun in December 2010 would yield results.

22. Ukraine was still coping with the aftermath of the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, which had caused widespread radioactive contamination. It would be difficult for Ukraine to achieve sustainable development until the remaining issues were resolved. He trusted that the international community would support his Government’s activities to that end.

23. **Mr. Wang Qun** (China) said that for nearly two decades national Governments had made headway in implementing the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Various forms of regional and bilateral cooperation in environment and development were under way. Still, the international community had not yet turned the tide of global environmental degradation. While traditional problems such as hunger and poverty, waste of resources, water shortages and ecological degradation remained unsolved, new problems such as climate change, food security, energy security and contagious diseases now posed challenges to sustainable development. Countries should set their sights on their long-term interests and help the developing countries establish sound economic and industrial structures in order to achieve win-win results through common development. Effective financial and technology-transfer mechanisms should be put in place for the widespread application of the results of scientific research.

24. Since the Rio Conference, his Government had formulated and improved laws and regulations on environmental protection, natural resource management, disaster prevention and management of chemicals and waste. It had worked hard to develop a green economy and had taken proactive steps to mitigate climate change and control greenhouse gas emissions. China had acceded to and implemented numerous conventions related to chemicals and the environment. With a large population, fragile ecology and uneven economic development in its regions, China faced daunting challenges in achieving sustainable development but would work to strengthen cooperation and make its contribution.

25. **Mr. Sergeev** (Observer for Belarus), speaking on the issues of sustainable development, human settlements, environment, and population and development, said that the next session of the Commission on Sustainable Development should develop specific recommendations on such issues as a 10-year plan for the implementation of the programme on sustainable production and consumption.

26. The United Nations system must devote greater attention to developing new approaches to providing housing for vulnerable segments of the population, with particular focus on sustaining small towns. Belarus had begun that process with a new policy under which rural communities were transformed into agro-industrial settlements with adequate housing and infrastructure.

27. With respect to the environment, he noted that Belarus, like Ukraine, suffered from the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Emissions in Belarus were growing at a much lower rate than its gross national product. As a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, Belarus had undertaken to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 8 per cent by 2012, on par with Europe’s most industrially developed countries. The delay in the ratification of the amendment proposed by Belarus to Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol prevented his country from fully participating in the Convention’s mechanisms. He thanked those States that had ratified the amendment and called upon the remaining parties to the Protocol to do so.

28. Belarus had already achieved the first, second and third Millennium Development Goals and was on track to achieve the Goals on reducing child and maternal mortality and on environmental sustainability. To counter negative demographic trends, Belarus had enacted a law on demographic security, which had resulted in a higher birth rate, longer life expectancy and a reduction in the emigration rate. Nevertheless, the demographic decline continued. It was therefore imperative for Belarus to take further measures to improve its demographic outlook. His Government welcomed its effective cooperation with United Nations agencies for population and development, including the United Nations Population Fund, which had provided assistance with a national census.

29. **Ms. Bethel** (Bahamas), speaking on the issue of international cooperation in tax matters, said that the

Committee of Experts had done important work in developing the proposed United Nations code of conduct on cooperation in combating international tax evasion and avoidance. That work should be directly linked to an intergovernmental process that would consider the issues involved and provide follow-up. The Committee of Experts should therefore be converted into an intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Council, which would allow for the intergovernmental discussion of tax matters within the United Nations, the only truly universal forum with effective participation by developing countries, particularly small ones. Member States could address difficult issues comprehensively, including the issue of inadequate budgetary support for the Committee, which had led to a lack of resources for meetings, capacity-building and technical assistance. Strengthened international cooperation in tax matters would also be a significant step towards achieving wider internationally agreed development goals.

30. **Ms. Farrell** (United States of America), speaking on the issues of human settlements and statistics, said that the results framework for UN-Habitat's medium-term strategic and institutional plan was an important results-based management tool. UN-Habitat played a leadership role in such work as the identification of best practices, creation of training materials and delivery of technical advice. Its regional reports and State of the World's Cities reports were examples of excellent normative work. Her Government endorsed the call for increased attention to urban issues in the United Nations system and would work closely with UN-Habitat to promote public awareness of the challenges facing cities and innovative approaches to developing affordable housing and sustainable communities.

31. The Statistical Commission had done impressive work in developing statistical standards and guidelines to foster the comparability of national data and strengthen national statistical capacity. Its capacity-building initiatives had undoubtedly contributed to the quality of the data with which the upcoming high-level plenary of the General Assembly would evaluate progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission members showed exemplary professionalism. Her delegation was grateful that so many top statisticians dedicated their time and efforts to that important work, and urged the Commission to maintain its commitment to excellence.

32. With regard to the publication of the *System of National Accounts, 2008*, she urged countries to take steps to improve their basic economic statistics.

33. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) said that the Commission on Sustainable Development was poised to make real progress on the thematic cluster covered by its current two-year cycle of work, despite the lasting impact of the global crises. The Commission should take social and economic realities into account in its work, while its sessions should allow for the proper consideration of all issues within the cluster and protracted negotiations should be avoided. The General Assembly's declaration of 20 October as 2010 World Statistics Day would underscore the importance of statistics in modern society.

34. Praising the work of UN-Habitat, he underlined its efforts to mitigate the social, economic and ecological impact of the current crises, climate change and natural disasters while also pursuing its core mandate of assisting States in providing housing, eradicating poverty and tackling social issues while ensuring urban development.

35. He welcomed the outcome of the eleventh special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and pointed out the need for a comprehensive analysis detailing how a green economy might contribute to sustainable development and poverty eradication. Better cooperation in international environmental protection activities under UNEP leadership could be achieved through improved coordination among United Nations agencies, strict compliance with mandates and the avoidance of duplication. The coordination between UNEP and UNDP was a good example. However, the Council should not engage in discussions on transforming UNEP into a specialized United Nations agency, as that would duplicate the work of the new high-level consultative group established by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

36. The outcome of the forty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development was generally satisfactory. It had included fruitful discussions on how to achieve international goals in the area of health. His delegation was interested in further multilateral cooperation with a view to implementing the Cairo Agenda and, in that

connection, welcomed the Commission's adoption of "Adolescents and youth" as the theme of its forty-fifth session.

37. The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters performed important work that assisted with improvements to national tax systems, combating abuses under treaties, mutual assistance in tax collection and determining optimal tax regimes for participants in development projects. With respect to improving the institutional basis for international cooperation in tax matters, there was clearly no consensus as yet on the proposal to grant the Committee intergovernmental status.

38. **Mr. Al Bayati** (Iraq) said that sustainable development, as the optimum and fair use of natural resources, was a means of providing a better life for future generations. Although Iraqi legislation and development plans affirmed the principle of sustainable development, the country's current circumstances and collapsed infrastructure had meant that sustainable development was still at the initial stages. Bringing it up to international levels would require: considerable time, effort and money; the formulation of a long-term strategy in coordination with the international community; the use of efficient technologies; more efficient energy production and consumption; and the introduction of renewable energy.

39. In April 2010, the Space and Astrophysics Centre in the Ministry of Science and Technology had installed an experimental wind turbine in order to carry out research into the generation of renewable energy which, if successful, would lead to the first wind power station. The Government was also formulating plans to rebuild the development infrastructure, extend poverty eradication programmes to include the entire country and promote the integrated management of water resources.

40. Although Iraq faced difficulties in developing investment programmes and formulating comprehensive, long-term development plans, the Government had adopted a National Development Plan (2010-2014) that was based on sectoral analyses of the Iraqi economy covering the past four decades, with an emphasis on the period 2004 to 2008.

41. Public services, infrastructure and the environment were also analysed in the Plan, which took social and human factors into account through concern for poor and marginalized groups. The Millennium Development

Goals, institutional reform and sound governance were also addressed, as was empowerment in several areas, particularly the provision of housing. Based on a review of previous policies and their impact, the Plan developed a vision for the next five years, which was then translated into quantitative and qualitative goals and, finally, into investment programmes by sector and sphere of activity.

42. Iraq was one of the first countries in the Middle East to be concerned with environmental protection. In 1972, following its participation in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, it had established the Supreme Authority for the Human Environment, which had later become the Supreme Council for the Human Environment, the main environmental protection body in Iraq. In 2003, the Ministry of the Environment had been established with the goal of changing the traditional attitude towards the environment (biodiversity had been particularly neglected) and promoting a less piecemeal and more comprehensive approach.

43. On 6 May 2009, Iraq had acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and to the Convention on Biodiversity, both of which had entered into force on 26 October 2009. On 10 May 2010, it had acceded to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. His Government believed that the environment was of central importance to sustainable development and that greater attention must be paid to the effects of climate change.

44. The al-Ahwar marshlands in southern Iraq constituted the largest wetland ecosystem in the Middle East and western Eurasia. They were a crucial part of intercontinental flyways for migratory birds, supported endangered species and sustained freshwater fisheries, as well as the marine ecosystem of the Persian Gulf. The site was also unique from the global perspective of human heritage. It had been home to indigenous communities since the time of the Sumerian civilization more than 5,000 years ago. Drained by the Saddam regime for political and military reasons, the Government had been re-inundating marshlands since 2003. As a result, 20 to 30 per cent of the area had been returned to its former state and the accompanying revival of the ecosystem had encouraged the return of the indigenous inhabitants. However, there was still much to do in order to rehabilitate the region fully. Projects were currently under way through

collaboration between the Iraqi Government, United Nations agencies and friendly countries.

45. **Ms. Leiva Roesch** (Guatemala), speaking on the issue of sustainable development, expressed the hope that the opening statement made by the Chair of the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development would provide input into the important policy decisions to be taken at the nineteenth session of the Commission. In preparation for that session, efforts should be made to ensure that the Commission's decisions were implemented at field level and had long-term impact. The nineteenth session would provide an opportunity: to strengthen existing instruments and initiatives, particularly those concerning transport and chemical and solid waste management; to agree on guidelines that would minimize the impact of the mining industry on communities and the environment; and to develop a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. The views expressed by the representatives of Belgium and Yemen on behalf of the European Union and the Group of 77 and China, respectively, should also be taken into account.

46. **Mr. Farias** (Brazil), speaking on the issue of human settlements, said that population growth, the unparalleled scale and pace of urbanization, especially in developing countries, the global financial crisis, and the challenges imposed by climate change would require new financing systems for affordable housing. His Government was aware of the importance of the housing sector for the overall health of the economy and the key role of the public sector in providing supportive policies and legislation, priority budget allocations and targeted subsidies. In 2003, it had created a Ministry of the Cities in order to combat social inequality and increase access to affordable housing, sanitation and transport. The percentage of Brazil's people living in urban areas had risen from 10 per cent to 82 per cent in less than a century, and as a result 6.6 million families were without shelter, 11 per cent of urban households had no access to drinking water and 50 per cent were without sewage collection. A strong commitment at all levels of national government and improved international cooperation were needed.

47. Accordingly, a nationwide Programme for Accelerated Growth had established rules, commitments and guidelines for promoting economic growth with

social inclusion through targeted infrastructure investments in the areas of logistics, energy, and social and urban development, including slum urbanization. Those projects also took into consideration the need to mitigate climate change, reduce the environmental impact of urbanization and integrate cities through transport infrastructures. Those experiences had been shared with Governments, civil society and other stakeholders at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum (The Right to the City — Bridging the Urban Divide), held in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010, which had focused on the principles of democratic urban management, the social function of property and the role of cities in promoting inclusive urban development policies. In order to achieve those goals, it was important to bring on board the major players that could address those issues under a broader framework of social inclusion and economic development. There was an urgent need for more international cooperation, adequate policy options and, above all, the right kind of financing provisions, instruments and resources. His delegation hoped that in the future, the Bretton Woods institutions and the private sector would play a greater role in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

48. **Mr. Syah** (Observer for Indonesia), speaking on the issue of sustainable development, said that the Committee on World Food Security should coordinate and share national and regional strategies in order to ensure that they were better understood and implemented by all stakeholders, including at the international level, and that the role of regional organizations in matters relating to food security should be enhanced. In that connection, he drew attention to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Integrated Food Security Framework and Strategic Plan Of Action On Food Security in the ASEAN Region. ASEAN members had also implemented joint projects in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors. His own Government was working to strengthen ASEAN cooperation in promoting sustainable food production, better post-harvest practices and supportive marketing and trading arrangements in the region. At the international level, the Committee should play a catalytic role in enhancing the capacities of developing countries in the areas of, inter alia, technology transfer and human resources development and management.

49. His delegation was confident that the Committee's new structure and outreach activities would create an enabling environment for successful reform. It was important that Member States should support the newly reformed Committee and that its sustainability and accountability should be developed and maintained in order to prevent the occurrence of another food crisis. The agenda for the next meeting of the Committee should be inclusive yet concise, substantive and action-oriented in order to facilitate lively discussion and deliberations.

50. **Mr. St. Aimee** (Saint Lucia), speaking from the perspective of the small island developing States, said that the concepts of "sustainable development" and "environment" were so broad that it was difficult to identify the activities needed. He therefore suggested that sustainable development should be viewed in terms of the integration of activities in various fields, such as agriculture and fisheries, urban planning, tourism, youth, rural development and education. Environmental issues could be addressed through an understanding of the ecological space within which development activities took place; for example, the ability of countries to feed their people was critical to their development in other areas, such as health, nutrition and education.

51. The Commission on Sustainable Development, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and other structures designed to help the small island developing States should focus on activities rather than on monitoring measures. States such as his own were particularly interested in the ways in which organizations like the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations could help them to increase the shelf life of their agricultural products so that any surplus could be traded.

52. **Mr. Morrill** (Canada) said that the report of the Secretary-General on coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2010/72) took a comprehensive approach to a variety of issues and that his delegation welcomed the treatment of indigenous issues at the fifth session of the World Urban Forum.

53. **Ms. Castaño** (United Nations Environment Fund), introducing the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session (A/65/25), said that 2010 marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of

the UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum. In recognition of that milestone, the Governing Council had adopted the Nusa Dua Declaration, in which those participating had expressed their deep concern about climate change and other environmental and development crises and stressed that those challenges required global partnerships for solutions and represented opportunities for individuals, local communities and businesses and for international cooperation. The Declaration identified areas in which international action was paramount: climate change, international environmental governance, sustainable development, the green economy, and biodiversity and ecosystems. The participants had also adopted a number of decisions on, inter alia, international environmental governance, oceans, the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes, and United Nations Environment Programme support for Haiti.

Sustainable development

54. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eighteenth session and provisional agenda for the nineteenth session of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eighteenth session (E/2010/29).

55. *The draft decision was adopted.*

56. **The President** said that consultations on the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twelfth session (E/2010/33) had concluded and that action would be taken on the draft proposal contained therein once it had been issued as an official document.

57. **Ms. Hussain** (Maldives) introduced the draft resolution entitled "Review of United Nations support for small island developing States", submitted in document E/2010/L.24.

58. **The President** announced that the Comoros and Saint Lucia had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Statistics

59. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-first session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-second session of the Commission”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-first session (E/2010/24).

60. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Human settlements

61. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Human settlements”, submitted in document E/2010/L.25.

62. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Environment

63. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session (A/65/25) and suggested that the Council should take note of it.

64. *It was so decided.*

Population and development

65. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-third session and provisional agenda for its forty-fourth session”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-third session (E/2010/25).

66. *The draft decision was adopted.*

67. **Mr. Rodríguez** (Peru) drew attention to resolution 2010/1 of the Commission on Population and Development entitled “Health, morbidity, mortality and development”, contained in chapter I, section B, of the Commission’s report (E/2010/25). The Peruvian Government considered itself bound by the resolution to the extent that its provisions were compatible with domestic law and with its obligations under the international human rights instruments to which Peru was a party. Abortion was illegal in his country and the Government was of the view that it could best be combated through sexual and reproductive health education in order to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

68. **Mr. Berguño** (Chile) said that his Government interpreted resolution 2010/1 of the Commission as being compatible with domestic law, with the Constitution of Chile and with respect for the right to life.

Public administration and development

69. **The President** drew attention to the draft resolution entitled “Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its ninth session”, contained in chapter I of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its ninth session (E/2010/44). It was his understanding that, following informal consultations, the Council would resume consideration of the draft resolution at its 2011 organizational session.

70. *It was so decided.*

71. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration”, submitted in document E/2010/L.29.

72. *The draft decision was adopted.*

International cooperation in tax matters

73. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its fifth session (E/2009/45).

74. **Mr. Al-Aud** (Observer for Yemen), introducing on behalf of the Group of 77 and China the draft resolution entitled “Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters”, submitted in document E/2010/L.10, said that the Group looked forward to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

75. **The President** said that no advance documentation had been submitted under agenda item 13 (i) and that no draft proposal was before the Council. He drew attention to the annotations contained in the Council’s agenda under that agenda item, which provided the background and rationale for its continued inclusion in the agenda.

Cartography

76. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (E/CONF.99/3) and to the report of the Eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (E/CONF.100/9) and suggested that the Council should take note of them.

77. *It was so decided.*

78. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled “Global geographic information management”, submitted in document E/2010/L.23, which had no programme budget implications. He invited the Council to take action on it.

79. *Draft decision E/2010/L.23 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.