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General segment

Provisional summary record of the 48th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 28 July 2011, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Rosocha (Acting Vice-President)..... (Slovakia)**Contents**Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

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* Sub-items considered together.

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In the absence of Mr. Kapambwe (Zambia), Mr. Rosocha (Slovakia), Acting Vice-President, took the Chair.

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

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

- (b) **Social development** (A/66/61-E/2011/3, A/66/62-E/2011/4 and E/2011/26 and Corr.1)
- (c) **Crime prevention and criminal justice** (E/2010/30/Add.1, E/2011/30 and E/2011/L.50)
- (d) **Narcotic drugs** (E/2010/28/Add.1, E/2011/28, E/2011/L.50, E/INCB/2010/1 and E/INCB/2010/1/Supp.1)
- (e) **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (E/2011/L.17/Rev.1)
- (f) **Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**
- (g) **Human rights** (E/2011/22 and E/2011/90)
- (h) **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** (E/2011/43 and Corr.1 and E/2011/L.54)

Ms. Bas (Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and United Nations system coordination and collaboration related to youth (A/66/61-E/2011/3), said that, although collaboration within the United Nations system on youth-related matters had increased significantly in recent years, much remained to be done in order to reap the full benefits of inter-agency coordination. The report highlighted examples of effective collaboration on youth matters at the global, regional and country levels, discussed ways of increasing coordination among United Nations entities and provided an overview of key examples of such coordination, in particular the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development.

The report recommended that the General Assembly call upon the relevant United Nations organizations to increase coordination and collaboration in their work related to youth and further develop mechanisms to involve young people in inter-agency youth development initiatives. It also recommended that the General Assembly should call upon regional coordination mechanisms of the United Nations to adopt and/or implement regional inter-agency action plans in support of Member States' efforts to develop youth policies based on the World Programme of Action.

The report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond (A/66/62-E/2011/4) highlighted national efforts to implement social policies focused on the family, including cash transfers, social protection and intergenerational programmes, as well as work-life balance provisions. However, insufficient attention was paid at the international level to the role of the family in development.

The report also provided an overview of commitments relating to families made by the international community over the years, including on family-relevant policy recommendations in the areas of gender equality, reconciling work and family responsibilities, housing, work, health and education. It proposed a series of major themes to guide preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family:

“Poverty eradication: confronting family poverty and social exclusion”; “Full employment and decent work: ensuring work-family balance”; and “Social integration: advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity within families and communities”. It concluded that there was a need to focus on how best to support families, share good practices on family policies, review challenges facing families and recommend solutions. Regional meetings ought to be convened to facilitate the achievement of those objectives.

Mr. Ghodse (President, International Narcotics Control Board), introducing the report of the Board for 2010 (E/INCB/2010/1), said that the first chapter focused on drug-related corruption. Drug-trafficking was often associated with violence and corruption, which threatened stability and the rule of law in some countries. Post-conflict areas were also vulnerable to drug-related corruption. Criminal organizations used corruption and intimidation to hamper efforts by law enforcement officers to prevent drug-trafficking and the report contained recommendations on how to address that problem.

The second chapter of the report described the Board’s normative work, focusing on the operation of the international drug-control system. Country missions carried out by the Board, the most recent of which were summarized in the report, were the key to that work. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had highlighted the importance of the Board’s Project Prism and Project Cohesion, which were the driving force behind the intensified monitoring of the illicit international trade in precursor chemicals used to manufacture amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular heroin and cocaine. In its report, the Board highlighted measures that Governments should take in order to address the use of cannabis seeds for illicit purposes, the covert administration of psychoactive substances related to sexual assault and other criminal acts, and the increasing availability of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists and “designer drugs”.

The situation in Afghanistan remained a cause of concern. The Board was still taking action pursuant to article 14 of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and had noted efforts to strengthen cooperation between Afghanistan and neighbouring countries as well as the Government’s commitment to improving drug control. The illicit production of opium in Afghanistan had decreased in 2010 to about half the amount reported for 2009, mainly because of weather conditions and a fungal disease. South Asia had become one of the main regions used by drug-traffickers to source ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, which were used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. The illicit cultivation of opium poppies in East and South-East Asia had increased in 2009 and the manufacture of, trafficking in and use of synthetic drugs had increased significantly since 2008.

In South America, the total area of coca bush cultivation had decreased for the second consecutive year. However, drug-trafficking and related violence in Central America and the Caribbean remained a concern. Trafficking in and abuse of drugs were a major problem in North America. The trafficking of cocaine through Africa to Europe had increased after a decline in the previous two years and its abuse was spreading from Western Europe to other parts of Europe. The variety of drugs being abused, including substances not under international control, had risen. In Oceania, the abuse of MDMA (“ecstasy”) had increased and the region was increasingly being used for the trafficking of drugs and precursor chemicals.

It should be recalled that the 1961 Convention aimed primarily to prevent the illicit use of narcotic drugs but also aimed to ensure their availability for medical purposes. Concern about the lack of availability in many countries of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes had prompted the Board to publish a supplement to its annual report on the matter (E/INCB/2010/1/Supp.1). Ninety per cent of the global consumption of analgesics was concentrated in a small group of developed countries, while four fifths of the world’s population had no or limited access to such

medicines. The supplement made a number of recommendations on how to improve the situation.

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had, through its resolution 54/6, urged the international community to ensure that internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes were made adequately available around the world. The Economic and Social Council should support the implementation of that resolution. The Board was working with the World Health Organization (WHO), Member States and NGOs on the matter. United Nations resident coordinators had also been urged to consider including the issue of access to controlled medicines in their health programmes.

The decision by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to denounce the 1961 Convention and its 1972 Protocol, and then again accede to the Convention with a reservation on specific treaty provisions, was regrettable and contrary to the spirit of the Convention. The integrity of the global drug-control system would be undermined if all Governments were to adopt such an approach to deal with their problems in the implementation of specific treaty provisions. The Board, which recognized the efforts of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to address the illicit cultivation, trafficking and abuse of drugs, would continue its dialogue with the Government in order to promote the solution of existing problems in compliance with the letter and spirit of the Convention.

The Board hoped that drug-related issues would be addressed at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, which would be held in September 2011. The international drug-control system was designed to prevent drug abuse and to ensure the availability of internationally controlled substances for licit purposes, such as the provision of medicines to treat non-communicable diseases and relieve associated pain.

Ms. Kran (Director, Research and Right to Development Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), addressing sub-item (g), said that the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/2011/90) focused on the use of human rights indicators and benchmarks in the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights, and highlighted practices and methods developed at the national and international levels. Such work, which had been referred to as “the science of human dignity”, was essential. The systematic use of human rights indicators improved the transparency of human rights assessments and aided in the effective implementation of appropriate policies. Such indicators could also be used to help support claims of human rights violations by providing complainants with a source of evidence.

States parties needed to adopt indicators and benchmarks in reporting and human rights policy, especially with regard to economic, social and cultural rights. Research showed that stakeholders were increasingly using human rights indicators in their work. The report suggested ways to further advance the use of human rights indicators to protect and promote economic, social and cultural rights, such as capacity-strengthening for a wide range of stakeholders, and encouraged the more systematic use of human rights indicators in human rights assessments, policymaking and policy implementation, as well as in monitoring and redress mechanisms.

Introducing the annual report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (E/2011/22), she said that the Committee’s request for additional meeting time remained pending. During its forty-fifth session, the Committee had held a day of general discussion to advance its work on the drafting of a general comment on the right to sexual and reproductive health and adopted a statement on the right to sanitation, which was an essential component of the right to an adequate standard of living, as set forth in article 11 of the Covenant.

Mr. Pillay (Chairperson, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), drew the attention of Council members to the last two annual reports of the Committee (E/2010/22 and E/2011/22) and recalled that, in 1999, the Council had endorsed a recommendation by the Committee enabling it to hold extraordinary sessions in 2000 and 2001 and thereby reduce the backlog of States parties' periodic reports awaiting consideration. The sharp rise in the number of reports submitted since then had led the Committee to request the Council for extra meeting time, thus far in vain. Although aware that other human rights treaty bodies faced similar dilemmas and that efforts were being made to reach a lasting solution to manage the workload problem, the Committee had noted that several treaty bodies had been granted additional meeting time by the General Assembly.

Reports submitted to the Committee by States parties in 2011 were tentatively scheduled for consideration in 2015, which was an intolerable state of affairs. While accepting that the Council did not support the Committee's request for an additional annual session, it recommended that the Council should consider granting it an additional week per session for two years. The Committee had also decided to reduce the number of meetings dedicated to each State party's periodic report, in line with the practice of other treaty bodies. It was hoped that a more efficient use of that limited time would minimize the negative impact of such a reduction on the quality of the Committee's dialogue with States parties. It should be noted that, at a meeting of treaty body chairpersons with Member States in July 2011, concern had been expressed about the already limited time for dialogue between States parties and treaty body members.

Although the Committee was committed to pursuing the process of harmonizing the working methods of all the treaty bodies, it would be unable to fulfil its mandate without adequate resources. Given the cost of documentation, translation, interpreting and conference services, it was vital that the reports submitted by States parties be reduced in length. The Committee looked forward to the day when it would be granted the same resources to help States parties to implement economic, social and cultural rights as those allotted to committees that focused on other issues, notably civil and political rights. All human rights were universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and should be treated in a fair and equal manner.

Ms. Lim (Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) said that threats to refugees, internally displaced persons, other persons of concern and UNHCR staff were increasing, while the humanitarian space in which UNHCR operated continued to shrink. Complex contemporary challenges, such as climate change, food insecurity, scarcity of water, population growth and urbanization exacerbated conflicts and resulted in generalized insecurity, violations of human rights and forced displacement. In that context, UNHCR continued to focus on the enhancement of protection capacity and improvement of emergency response through solid partnerships and coordination.

UNHCR was actively contributing to discussions led by the Emergency Relief Coordinator to review and improve humanitarian response, and consider issues of leadership and accountability for performance, as well as accountability to beneficiaries. UNHCR supported the Coordinator's efforts to continue the humanitarian reform and to streamline Inter-Agency Standing Committee processes. UNHCR sought to simplify the cluster approach and relieve the burden of multiple coordination processes on teams in the field. In order to improve the focus on the key aims of the cluster approach, UNHCR accountability frameworks included the role played by staff in humanitarian country teams and United Nations country teams.

UNHCR promoted a leadership model that provided greater predictability and served partners' needs and expectations, through contingency planning, needs assessment,

information management and the coordination of fund-raising activities. The Office was working closely with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme to promote more predictable partnerships and coordination. UNHCR was committed to sharing its expertise and knowledge of emergency preparedness and response with humanitarian partners, and was ready to learn from them. In order to improve coordination, the UNHCR Handbook for Emergencies would be revised to reflect contemporary humanitarian challenges. Recent coordinated activities included a joint humanitarian evacuation operation of third-country nationals and persons of concern during the recent crisis in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The Office advocated engagement with development organizations to achieve sustainable solutions for displaced persons and lay the foundations for future development, and had consistently supported that approach through the United Nations Development Group. UNHCR, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, had established the Transitional Solutions Initiative, which aimed to place solutions for the displaced on the development agendas of Governments, donors and development agencies.

Since 2011 was the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, UNHCR was working with a number of partners, including NGOs, States and academic partners, to commemorate those events. To that end, a ministerial meeting would be held in December 2011, which, it was hoped, would culminate in practical pledges to heighten protection and forward-looking strategies to improve the situation of refugees and stateless persons. UNHCR would continue to develop partnerships and effective coordination, in order to ensure effective humanitarian responses.

General discussion

Mr. Sados (Observer for Poland) speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the effects of the global economic and financial crisis continued to threaten efforts to promote social development. The challenges of the financial crisis must be met in a sustainable manner, through an integrated approach that placed people at the centre of development.

Social security could play an essential role in economic growth and recovery, since it was a means of ensuring a more balanced globalization and was an investment in social and economic development, which made people more resilient in times of crisis. Crisis management strategies should therefore include a long-term social protection perspective. Consideration should be given to the connection between social and employment policies, and sustainable social protection systems should be developed to prevent the increase of poverty and promote employability. Social security policies should focus on promoting productive employment and decent work backed up by good governance based on social dialogue. Social security systems must be effective and transparent. The Commission on Social Development should work to enhance dialogue on social issues and place social integration high on the global agenda for development.

Poverty reduction remained a global challenge and the European Union had set a target of reducing the number of people living at risk of poverty and social exclusion by at least 20 million by the year 2020. That target was supported by others on raising the employment rate and the level of education. An initiative entitled "Youth on the Move" had been developed to improve employment rates among young people and the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion had been launched. Innovative sources of

financing were required at the global level to mobilize developing countries' own capacities and resources in support of poverty reduction.

Given the essential role of the promotion of decent work, social protection and gender equality in reducing poverty, the European Union promoted social integration and cohesion policies through a multilateral system, which recognized the contributions of all stakeholders. The European Union welcomed the social protection focus of the 2011 International Labour Conference. A possible non-binding recommendation on the subject would be discussed at the 2012 session of the Conference, which would provide guidance to member States on using "social protection floors" as a means of reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development. The European Union was committed to working with all stakeholders to promote social protection as a tool for development.

Mr. Jordán (Argentina) said that, while the global population was ageing, the elderly were often victims of discrimination and stigmatization, facing reduced employment opportunities, barriers to social participation and insufficient social security to meet their specific needs. Unlike other vulnerable groups, the elderly did not have the benefit of the support of an international instrument, treaty body or special procedure to promote their rights. His delegation therefore supported the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, and would also support the adoption of a legally-binding international convention on the rights of older persons, which would set forth States parties' commitments in respect of the prevention of age-based discrimination and the promotion of international cooperation on the rights of older persons.

Mr. Rakovskiy (Russian Federation) said that the Russian Federation supported United Nations efforts to achieve social development and eradicate poverty through social integration, as well as its efforts to address the issues raised by an ageing population, to ensure equal rights for people with disabilities and to improve the situation of young people, the family and children. The Commission on Social Development was a key actor in that regard. The Russian Federation was committed to upholding its social development responsibilities towards all citizens, in particular those who did not receive social protection. His Government advocated a collective approach to peaceful dispute resolution, taking account of the views of all States concerned.

Addressing sub-item (f), he said that the Russian Federation categorically rejected attempts to rewrite the history of the Second World War and was concerned at the growth of the neo-Nazi movement; his delegation wished to underscore that freedom of speech and assembly should not be used as justification for incitement to hatred. He called on all States that had submitted reservations to article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to withdraw them. The implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action was essential for the elimination of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. His delegation welcomed the balanced approach taken by the Secretariat to the activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as it was essential to avoid the politicization of such activities.

The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol decreed the purely humanitarian and non-political nature of the work of UNHCR. The key role of the Executive Committee of UNHCR in the implementation of decisions on international protection for refugees should be maintained. The Russian Federation was committed to upholding UNHCR standards when responding to situations of mass forced migration. His Government attached particular importance to the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and its contribution to the protection of indigenous peoples' rights and to achieving the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

The United Nations was the main coordinator of international cooperation to combat illegal drug-trafficking. The growth of the drugs trade and terrorism in Afghanistan gave particular cause for concern. Those who fuelled terrorism using funds from the drugs trade should be added to the Al-Qaida Sanctions List. Greater efforts should be made to implement Security Council resolution 1817 (2008), which called for increased international cooperation to eliminate the smuggling to and within Afghanistan of chemical precursors needed to produce heroin. He urged all States to actively participate in the third ministerial conference of the Paris Pact, to be held in December 2011. He welcomed the results of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. Unfortunately, transnational organized crime was developing more rapidly than the legal framework to combat it, and existing international agreements were insufficient for addressing all forms of crime, such as cybercrime. The United Nations must therefore step up its efforts to combat cybercrime through the adoption of an international convention.

Ms. Chae Yeon-joo (Republic of Korea) said that poverty eradication and social protection were pertinent themes for the forty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development. Recent challenges to the global economy had impeded efforts to reduce poverty, while highlighting the importance of social policy and economic growth. Her Government believed strongly that poverty eradication policies and a social protection framework were fundamental to sustainable and integrated economic growth. The Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, which would be hosted by the Republic of Korea in November 2011, would offer a valuable opportunity to discuss a comprehensive development paradigm to advance the aid effectiveness agenda.

Transnational organized crime knew no boundaries and could only be addressed through regional and global cooperation, with a focus on security and the rule of law. To that end, her Government had established an Asia-Pacific information and coordination centre for combating drug crimes, which would strengthen the network of law enforcement agencies in South Asian countries. Her Government was taking steps to ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and to incorporate it into the national legal system.

Noting that 2011 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of the International Organization for Migration, she expressed appreciation for UNHCR efforts to protect refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons and other persons of concern. The global refugee situation was not improving, and the full support of all Member States was required if solutions were to be found to refugee problems. The principle of non-refoulement must be respected at all times. She reiterated her Government's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights through social and economic policies that protected women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

Mr. Beshta (Ukraine) said that the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms were reflected in Ukraine's domestic and foreign policy. Ukraine had made efforts to develop monitoring mechanisms to ensure that domestic legislation was brought into line with international human rights standards, strengthen the role of human rights organizations and improve human rights education. Despite the challenges posed by the global economic and financial crisis, Ukraine remained committed to meeting its international human rights obligations, in particular by revising social policy to ensure specific protection of the rights of the most vulnerable groups of the population.

Ukraine appreciated the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and attached great importance to the work of the Human Rights Council. Ukraine

had issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Council and had received a number of visits. It had been subject to the universal periodic review process in 2008 and 2010 and had sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 14/5 entitled “The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights”, which had been adopted by consensus.

He emphasized the need for enhanced interaction between the United Nations and regional organizations in efforts to prevent human rights violations. As current Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Ukraine was giving priority to the promotion of human rights and the rule of law in the context of democracy and stability in Europe. An international conference on prevention of human rights violations would be held in Kyiv in September 2011, and would focus on strengthening the mandate and capacity of human rights organizations and the role of national and international judicial institutions in preventing human rights violations.

Mr. Popov (Observer for Belarus) said that despite the fact that the United Nations human rights system was paying more attention to economic, social and cultural rights, far more attention was still paid to civil and political rights. The Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights must strive to redress that balance in their work and perspectives, since all human rights were interdependent and indivisible.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should not focus on monitoring the situation in individual States, but rather should provide assistance to States to enhance their capacity for promoting and protecting human rights, taking account of their national priorities and needs. Technical assistance should be provided, with a focus on developing national capacity with regard to gender equality and combating trafficking in persons. Belarus was concerned that the Office was increasingly influenced by the political interests of donor countries. It should take an equitable approach to all Member States and should not support politicized decisions. Attempts to use the human rights machinery of the United Nations as a means to bring pressure to bear on sovereign States should not be tolerated.

His Government welcomed the adoption of resolution 20/3 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which would contribute to the comprehensive and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Belarus had contributed to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and encouraged all other States to do likewise.

Ms. Navarro Llanos (Observer for the Plurinational State of Bolivia), addressing sub-item (d), said that, for at least 5,000 years, the indigenous peoples of South America had been chewing coca leaves as a sociocultural practice or ritual. There was no proof that the custom was harmful to health or resulted in addiction. While her Government recognized that the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances formed the cornerstone of the international drug control system, it believed that the 1961 Convention had never taken into account the rights of indigenous peoples or their sociocultural practices, or the progress made in international human rights law.

Those rights were recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions; the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169); the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic

Drugs and Psychotropic Substances; and the recognition by UNESCO of the Andean Cosmovision of the Kallawaya as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. At its eighth and tenth sessions, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had recognized the cultural and medicinal importance of coca and recommended amending or deleting those sections of the 1961 Convention that were incompatible with the rights of indigenous peoples.

In 2009, the international community had rejected an amendment tabled by 17 countries to overturn the ban on chewing coca provided for in the 1961 Convention. Since then, the Bolivian Government had denounced the 1961 Convention in accordance with article 46 of the Convention and the provisions of the Bolivian Constitution, and national legislation had been passed to the same effect. On 1 December 2011, the Bolivian Government would communicate to the Secretary-General its request to accede to the 1961 Convention, making transitional reservations under article 49, paragraph 1 (c) and paragraph 2 (e), which were contrary to the principles of the Bolivian Constitution, on respect for the culture, legitimate uses, values and personality of the 36 nationalities making up the Bolivian State. In the meantime, her country would continue to comply with the 1961 Convention and its 1972 Protocol.

She wished to make it clear that the text of the 1961 Convention would not be altered nor would it be necessary to convene an international conference to consider any proposed amendment on coca-leaf chewing. Her country would remain a party to the 1961 Convention without interruption and its reservation would not affect the other parties to the Convention in any way.

Ms. Fernández Palacios (Observer for Cuba), speaking on sub-item (d), said that combating drug-trafficking was an international priority which went hand in hand with the fight against underdevelopment and for the establishment of a more just world economic order. Less well-off countries found it harder to combat drug-related crime and no country could stand alone in the fight against terrorism, drug-trafficking, trafficking in humans, money-laundering or arms-trafficking. International cooperation based on respect for sovereignty was vital. No form of transboundary crime cost more in terms of financial, social and human resources than drug-trafficking. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime therefore needed more resources in order to execute its programmes and provide technical cooperation.

She supported the statement made by the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on its right to reassert the significance of coca and to end the worldwide ban on its use, on the basis of the cultural and traditional values of indigenous peoples.

Addressing sub-item (c), she said that the Cuban Government worked systematically to prevent crime by means of far-reaching programmes of economic, social and cultural development together with amendments to legislation. While punishing all forms of organized crime, it saw universal education as the cornerstone of crime prevention. Cuba had demonstrated fully its commitment to international cooperation in the fight against organized transboundary crime by participating actively in bilateral and multilateral forums and cooperating with dozens of States.

Turning to sub-item (f), she said that a decade after the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, both still had to be fully applied. In the International Year for People of African Descent, all States should demonstrate their commitment and political will to end racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance.

Ms. Tambunan (Observer for Indonesia), speaking on sub-item (g), said that Indonesia was constitutionally committed to the global promotion and protection of human rights, through constructive dialogue and international cooperation aimed at building countries' capacity to comply with their obligations. The cause of human rights should be

advanced on the basis of objectivity, impartiality, non-selectivity and the elimination of double standards and politicization.

Indonesia had contributed internationally to the promotion and protection of human rights through its active involvement in the Human Rights Council and by volunteering to be one of the first countries to submit itself to the universal periodic review process in 2008. It had cooperated with the human rights treaty bodies and was party to most of the core international human rights instruments and the relevant ILO conventions. Indonesia had recently signed the two newly adopted human rights conventions, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Indonesia strove to implement the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and would continue to engage constructively to make the Human Rights Council more credible, effective and respected.

Mr. Oyarce (Chile) said that the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights had to be reflected politically and in terms of the resources allocated to the protection of human rights. The work of the United Nations treaty bodies was essential and Chile agreed that the use of indicators in realizing economic, social and cultural rights was important. It supported efforts to strengthen the human rights mechanisms by, for example, increasing the number of meetings held by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Addressing sub-item (h), he said that the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues offered an opportunity for intercultural dialogue between Governments and indigenous peoples. The Forum improved understanding of how indigenous people lived, and his delegation supported, in particular, its recommendations on economic and social development, the environment and the right to free, prior and informed consent. His country had noted the proposal for developing guidelines on the implementation of that right as recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. More should be done to promote indigenous peoples' rights with respect to ILO Convention No. 169.

Turning to sub-item (f), he noted that 2011, 10 years after the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, was also the International Year for People of African Descent. Nobody could enjoy all their rights unless all forms of discrimination were eliminated. It was therefore necessary to pinpoint and share best practices, speed up efforts to eradicate poverty, underdevelopment and social exclusion, and combat impunity through appropriate laws and better access to justice. In that respect, he commended the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. The international community's support for those bodies revealed the importance of combating discrimination from a human rights perspective and in a spirit of constructive cooperation.

Ms. González (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), addressing sub-item (d), said that her country supported the Plurinational State of Bolivia in its assertion that chewing coca leaves was part of its ancestral heritage. The fact that coca leaves were neither a drug nor a psychotropic substance had been clarified by a number of regional bodies, including the Southern Common Market. She was convinced that the stance taken by the Plurinational State of Bolivia would not have any negative repercussions.

Mr. Gogvadze (Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)) said that equal access to health and humanitarian rights was of paramount importance to IFRC. Its programmes for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse and the rehabilitation of abusers focused on five key areas: the needs of young

people; the needs of the marginalized and socially excluded; the need to expand treatment services, including substitution therapy; the need to develop policies and services addressing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse; and the importance of need exchanges for reducing HIV/AIDS transmission.

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees *(continued)*

Draft decision entitled “Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees” (E/2011/L.17/Rev.1)

Mr. Kayitayire (Rwanda), introducing the draft decision, recalled the 1994 genocide in his country and the successful repatriation and rehabilitation of Rwandan refugees in their country of origin. His Government was satisfied at the way in which refugees from other countries were being welcomed in Rwanda, with the support of its partners, including UNHCR. Wishing to strengthen its international cooperation in that domain, his country had formally requested to become a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The Government of Azerbaijan had made a similar request. If adopted, the draft decision would therefore expand the number of members of the Executive Committee from 85 to 87.

Mr. Shirinov (Observer for Azerbaijan) said that it was the aim of the Government of Azerbaijan to strengthen its international cooperation on refugees at all levels, which was why it had requested to become a member of the Executive Committee along with Rwanda.

The draft decision was adopted.

(b) Social development *(continued)*

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-ninth session (E/2011/26)

The President drew attention to the draft resolutions contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-ninth session.

Draft resolution I entitled “Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development”

Draft resolution II entitled “Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the development agenda”

Draft resolution III entitled “Modalities for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002”

Draft resolution IV entitled “Preparation for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family”

Draft resolutions I, II, III and IV were adopted.

The President drew attention to the draft decision contained in chapter I, section B, of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-ninth session.

Draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fiftieth session”

The draft decision was adopted.

(c) **Crime prevention and criminal justice**

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2010/30 and Add.1)

The President drew attention to the draft decision contained in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened nineteenth session (E/2010/30/Add.1).

Draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its reconvened nineteenth session”

The draft decision was adopted.

The President drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twentieth session (E/2011/30).

Section A

Draft resolution I entitled “Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”

Draft resolution II entitled: “Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism”

Draft resolution IV entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in combating the harmful effects of illicit financial flows resulting from criminal activities”

The President said he took it that the Council wished to approve draft resolutions I, II and IV and to recommend them to the General Assembly for adoption.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution III entitled “Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking”

The President said that, in view of the ongoing discussions on the draft resolution, he took it that the Council wished to defer action on it to a later date.

It was so decided.

Section B

Draft resolution I entitled “Prevention, protection and international cooperation against the use of new information technologies to abuse and/or exploit children”

Draft resolution II entitled “Support for the development and implementation of an integrated approach to programme development at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”

Draft resolution III entitled “International cooperation in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of economic fraud and identity related crime”

Draft resolution IV entitled “Crime prevention and criminal justice responses against illicit trafficking in endangered species of wild fauna and flora”

Draft resolutions I to IV were adopted.

Section C

Draft decision I entitled “Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twentieth session, provisional agenda for its twenty-first session and organization of work of its future sessions”

Draft decision I was adopted.

Draft decision II entitled “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”

Mr. Gustafik (Secretary of the Council) read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft decision II, which also applied to draft decision I contained in chapter I, section B, of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2011/28). He said that implementation of the two draft decisions would entail no programme budget implications for the current biennium. Should the draft decisions be adopted by the Council, additional resources would be required for implementation of the two meetings of the working group in 2012 and 2013 and the Secretary-General would make every effort to provide the services required within the provisions of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013.

Oral statements of programme budget implications had been submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on draft resolutions II, III and IV to be recommended by the Council for adoption by the General Assembly; draft resolutions I, III and IV to be adopted by the Council; and resolutions 20/3, 20/4, 20/5, 20/6 and 20/7 brought to the attention of the Council contained in document E/2011/30, all of which called for additional extrabudgetary resources. Oral statements of programme budget implications had also been submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on resolutions 54/2, 54/4, 54/5, 54/6, 54/7, 54/9 and 54/11 contained in document E/2011/28, all of which called for additional extrabudgetary resources. The statements relating to the aforementioned proposals remained valid.

Draft decision II was adopted.

(d) Narcotic drugs

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2010/28/Add.1 and E/2011/28)

The President drew attention to the draft decision contained in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-third session (E/2010/28/Add.1).

Draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its reconvened fifty-third session and provisional agenda for its fifty-fourth session”

The draft decision was adopted.

The President drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fourth session (E/2011/28).

Section A

Draft resolution entitled “Support for the development and implementation of an integrated approach to programme development at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”

The President said he took it that the Council wished to merge the present draft resolution and draft resolution II contained in section B of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the two texts were identical.

It was so decided.

Section B

Draft decision I entitled “Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fourth session and provisional agenda for its fifty-fifth session”

Draft decision I was adopted.

Draft decision II entitled “Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”

The President reminded the Council that the statement of programme budget implications relating to draft decision II in chapter I, section C, of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twentieth session (E/2011/30) delivered earlier also applied to the current draft decision. He took it that the Council wished to merge the two draft decisions, as the two texts were identical.

Draft decision II was adopted on that understanding.

Draft decision III entitled “Report of the International Narcotics Control Board”

Draft decision III was adopted.

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-President of the Council

Draft decision entitled "Joint meetings of the reconvened sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice"
(E/2011/L.50)

The President said that the draft decision had been prepared on the basis of informal consultations and submitted by the Vice-President of the Council on behalf of the chairpersons of the two commissions under items 14 (c) and (d).

Mr. Gustafik (Secretary of the Council) read out a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft decision, which stated that the draft decision would entail no programme budget implications for the current biennium. The Secretariat would keep expenditures under review and, if required, would report to the General Assembly in the context of performance reports during the current or future biennia. The statements of programme budget implications delivered to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-fourth session (E/CN.7/2011/CRP.5) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twentieth session (E/CN.15/2011/CRP.7) remained valid.

The draft decision was adopted.

(g) Human rights

Recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/2011/22)

The President said he took it that the Council wished to defer consideration of the agenda item to a resumed substantive session of the Council to be held before the end of 2011.

It was so decided.

(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Recommendations contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its tenth session (E/2011/43 and Corr.1)

Draft decision I entitled "International expert group meeting on the theme 'Combating violence against indigenous women and girls: article 22 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples'"

Draft decision II entitled "Venue and dates of the eleventh session of the Permanent Forum"

Mr. Gustafik (Secretary of the Council) read out a statement on the programme budget implications of the two draft decisions, which stated that the two draft decisions would entail no programme budget implications for the current or the next biennium.

Draft decisions I and II were adopted.

Draft decision III entitled "Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its tenth session and provisional agenda for its eleventh session"

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh) requested more time for consultations on the draft decision.

The President said he took it that the Council wished to defer consideration of the draft decision pending further consultations.

It was so decided.

Mr. Gustafik (Secretary of the Council) drew attention to the note by the Secretariat, under item 14 (a), on the outcomes of the forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/2011/105).

He also drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and United Nations system coordination and collaboration related to youth (A/66/61-E/2011/3) and the report by the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond (A/66/62-E/2011/4), submitted under item 14 (b).

He further drew attention to the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010 (E/INCD/2010/1), submitted under item 14 (d).

He also drew attention to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/2011/90), submitted under item 14 (g).

The President suggested that the Council should take note of the above-mentioned documents.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.