



Economic and Social Council

Provisional

4 November 2011

English

Original: French

Substantive session of 2011

Provisional summary record of the 26th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 12 July 2011, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Momen (Vice-President) (Bangladesh)

Contents

Coordination, programme and other questions

Reports of coordination bodies

Special event commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the right to development

“The right to development and global partnership for development”

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Editing Section, room E 4108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.



In the absence of the President, Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Coordination, programme and other questions

Reports of coordination bodies (item 7 (a) of the agenda) (E/2011/104)

1. **Mr. Stelzer** (Secretary of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination), presenting the Annual Overview Report of the Board for 2010-2011 (E/2011/104), said that one of the Board's priorities the preceding year had been strengthening the dialogue with the Member States with a view to increasing the transparency of its actions. Measures had also been taken to increase the quantity and quality of the information provided in its reports and on its website.

2. Over the reporting period, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, having an important impact on inter-agency efforts made in that area. The final document of the General Assembly High-Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals had also been an important milestone. The Board had been coordinating efforts to contribute to the urgent action required to support country efforts to reach the Goals, including measures supporting national strategies through the MDG Acceleration Framework and to enhance accountability and coherence in tracking MDG commitments through an Integrated Implementation Framework.

3. At the Fourth United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, in May 2011, the Board had issued a statement underscoring the importance of giving priority to the special needs of those countries and supporting efforts to build their productive capacity. Regarding preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), slated for 2012, the Board during its Spring 2011 session had formed a group of those most directly concerned, to ensure the coordination of the United Nations system's activities regarding the two themes of the conference: the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

4. Under their intergovernmental mandates, the Board's three subsidiary mechanisms had continued to work closely together to strengthen coordination across the system on programmatic, management and operational issues. The High-Level Committee on Programmes had focused on promoting greater synergy in the policies and programmes of United Nations system organizations so as to enhance the system's overall impact on helping countries meet internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It had also continued to dedicate system-wide coordination efforts to climate change, a major priority of the Board since 2007. The High-Level Committee on Programmes, working jointly with the United Nations Development Group, had also strengthened linkages between programmatic work at the global level and the work of country teams. It had also supported system-wide efforts to prepare for major conferences and ensure their follow-up. Finally, it had continued to encourage inter-organizational cooperation to strengthen personnel protection measures, to support transparency and accountability and to promote the adoption of good practices and modern management techniques in all areas.

5. On operational matters, the United Nations Development Group had continued to promote coherence and coordination with regard to country-level operations. It had drawn on inter-agency networks and task forces to strengthen linkages between normative and operational system activities. It was also making available lessons learned from the Delivering as One Pilots to other countries interested in pursuing the coherence agenda. Findings emerging from the country-led evaluations of the Pilots recognized that effective coordination was often more advanced among funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the Delivering as One countries. Work relating to unity of action in the United Nations system would continue in keeping with the directions set by Member States.

6. The Board would continue to ensure that the system aligned its collective strengths to meet the mandates established by the Member States and that the outcomes and decisions of the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system continued to guide and shape the work of the Board and its subsidiary mechanisms. The high-level committees would support it by actively engaging the

organizations of the United Nations system within a common framework, to maximize the coordinated use of resources, capacities and expertise at the global, regional and country levels.

7. **Mr. Ould Ahmed** (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) observed that Mr. Stelzer had not touched upon the issue of food security, which had been a focus of attention for two years.

8. **Mr. Stelzer** (Secretary of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination) said that the United Nations system continued to pay close attention to the vital issue of food security. He recalled that the Chief Executives Board and the United Nations system had obtained good results in that area. In 2008, after riots had broken out in over 30 countries due to high food prices, the Board had organized a session in Berne where it had created the High-Level Task Force on Food Security, over which the Secretary-General had presided and to which all the competent United Nations organs belonged. That group, whose activities had been welcomed by the Group of 20, met frequently to look into the food situation and continued the efforts under way. Unfortunately, the food situation had deteriorated; it was a persistent problem at risk of worsening, with the FAO reporting that food and commodity prices were on the rise. The food security issue was also one of the chief priorities of the Millennium Development Goals Advocacy Group, which was developing an action plan that would give high priority to that issue.

9. **Mr. Otsuka** (Japan) noted that, as Mr. Stelzer had emphasized, it was important to ensure coordination in the area of development. In addition to environmental issues, that matter would be addressed at the Rio+20 conference, as well as that of strengthening the activity of the United Nations Development Programme. Yet some countries believed that that was not enough and that it was important to establish a general framework for both the environment and development. Mr. Otsuka asked whether the Board envisaged that possibility, and what could be done in that regard prior to Rio+20.

10. **Mr. Stelzer** (Secretary of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination) said that the Secretary-General had several times expressed his belief that Rio+20 was the most important upcoming United Nations conference, since the United Nations system and Member States would determine strategy there that would be implemented in the

following ten years and even beyond. The main challenge of that conference would be to link the three areas of activity, economic development, social development and environment, and the entire United Nations system was gearing up for that task.

11. At the Board's previous session, the Secretary-General had formed a group of those most directly concerned, entrusted with advising him on the system's contribution to the two themes of Rio+20. That group was initially composed of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in their respective capacities as presidents of the Environment Management Group, the United Nations Development Group, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and UN-Energy. In an effort to involve the entire system, that group had then been expanded to include the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Executive Director of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Executive Secretary of the High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability and the Secretary of the Board. The Group would submit a report to the Board at its next session.

12. Further, the High-Level Committee on Programmes was working on the programme-related proposals it would present at Rio+20. It was also preparing a report on more fair, environmentally oriented and sustainable globalization, in which it would link the three aforementioned action areas. To bring together those diverse initiatives, the Secretary-General had asked the Board to prepare, prior to Rio+20, a United Nations system-wide strategy, which should be adopted at the Board's fall 2011 session.

13. **Mr. Boukadoum** (Observer for Algeria) asked for information on the Board's activities regarding cyber-security.

14. **Mr. Stelzer** (Secretary of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board) said that the Director-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) had made several presentations to the Board on that issue. The ITU and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, under the aegis of the High-Level

Committee on Programmes, had launched an initiative aimed at coordinating relevant United Nations system activities. A report on a recently-held meeting about the issue would be submitted to the Committee and an account would be presented to the Member States after the following Board session.

15. **Ms. Nemroff** (United States of America) asked for specifics on the new Board initiative to ensure follow-up to commitments regarding the Millennium Development Goals.

16. **Mr. Stelzer** (Secretary of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board) said that countless sorts of commitments — including political and financial ones — had been made since 2000 regarding the Millennium Development Goals, by both Governments and all stakeholders, including actors in civil society and members of universities and private companies. Given the difficulty of determining the exact nature of many of those commitments and of obtaining an overview of them, at the fall 2010 Board session the Secretary-General had proposed implementing an integrated framework for commitments related to the Millennium Development Goals. That framework would take the form of an interactive Internet portal presenting a summary of all international commitments related to the Millennium Development Goals. Information would be found there on the content of those commitments, the extent to which they had been implemented, the possible gaps and contradictions observed and the kind of support that should be provided when implementing national strategies within the framework of international partnerships. That framework would build on the mechanisms already in place in the entire system and bring together all available pertinent information. It would be implemented by the Millennium Development Goals Gap Task Force, composed of more than 20 international organizations including the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization. It was envisaged that all stakeholders would be asked to provide information on implementing the commitments made through the United Nations country teams. That project had been completely designed but not yet implemented due to a lack of funds — a relatively modest amount, \$60,000 — needed to complete its first phase.

The meeting was suspended at 3:50 p.m. and resumed at 4:05 p.m.

Special event commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the right to development — “The right to development and global partnership for development”

17. **Ms. Pillay** (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) noted that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development should be a time to advocate that right on behalf of all the victims who were denied freedom from fear and want, particularly the 500,000 women who died in childbirth every year, the millions of children suffering hunger and the billions of malnourished people worldwide. It was essential to improve the understanding of a right that too often had been relegated to the back burner of public consciousness. The General Assembly had mandated the High Commissioner for Human Rights with promoting and protecting that right. In its annual resolutions on the right to development, it called upon the High Commissioner to mainstream the right to development within the United Nations system and to undertake activities aimed at strengthening the global partnership for development between Member States, development agencies and the international development, financial and trade institutions. Strong support from the Economic and Social Council was needed to act meaningfully on that mandate. As the main United Nations body to examine international economic and social issues, the Council could also present recommendations to the Member States and United Nations system entities.

18. As the international community entered the final push toward the 2015 deadline to realize the Millennium Development Goals, multitudes still struggled with setbacks in progress due to recurring man-made crises, natural catastrophes and bad governance, whose consequences undermined the very basis of the right to development and other human rights. Recent events in the Middle East and North Africa were a clear example: the protest movement attested to the way in which failure to respect rights — economic, social and cultural as well as civil and political — could produce chain reactions. The protestors asserted that the denial of peoples’ participation in shaping the destiny of a nation, the unfair allocation of its wealth, the corrosive effects of

human rights abuses on livelihoods and dignity must be brought to an end. It should be noted that in 2010, at the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the Heads of State and Government had reaffirmed “the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality and an overall commitment to just, democratic societies for development.” They had also reaffirmed their commitment to implementing Millennium Development Goal 8 for a global partnership for development.

19. A vehicle to promote and streamline such partnership was the Secretary-General’s Integrated MDGs Implementation Framework. That new mechanism was designed to help identify and monitor progress in the many joint and individual commitments to the global partnership for development, which would increase accountability. Although the primary responsibility of ensuring equitable development rested with the States, the realities of globalization demanded everyone’s engagement, including at the international level. The international community’s role was to ensure that global partnership truly served the aspirations of people as holders of rights and legitimate subjects of development. A human rights lens could elucidate many root causes of poverty and disempowerment, which often included entrenched discrimination and inequality.

20. With the number of development actors increasing, the need for policy coherence, based on the holistic approach in the Declaration on the Right to Development, was evident. The crucial question was how the realization of the right to development and, specifically, the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 8 could reinforce each other and how the United Nations system could use those synergies in the journey towards 2015 and beyond. It could not be overemphasized that development strategies focused too narrowly on economic growth lost sight of the broader development goals. Development must be concerned with accessing the opportunities leading towards the constant improvement of human well-being, guaranteeing the right to a life of dignity and freedom — freedom from want, freedom from fear and the freedom to flourish. In that perspective, the right to development could help States to formulate, adopt, and implement policies and

programmes for just, equitable and sustainable development for all. The concept of the right to development placed people at the heart of development; it emphasized free, active and meaningful participation and a fair distribution of the benefits of development; it encompassed the principles of self-determination and sovereignty over natural resources.

21. As the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development neared, it was important to recall the principles set forth in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development: that human beings must be at the centre of development and that the right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations. All aspects dealt with specifically by Millennium Development Goal 8 — aid, market access, debt sustainability, access to affordable essential medicines and to new technologies — stood to benefit from the application of the constituent elements of the right to development.

22. **Mr. Shue** (University of Oxford) said that one of the great theoretical triumphs of the right to development declared in 1986 was its embrace of the indivisibility of basic human rights. A second realization about that inseparability had also taken shape. The final Declaration adopted at the close of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment — whose Principle 6 stated that discharges “in such quantities or concentrations as to exceed the capacity of the environment to render them harmless, must be halted in order to ensure that serious or irreversible damage is not inflicted upon ecosystems” — and the 1992 Rio Summit — where the themes of environment and development had been tackled together for the first time in history — had created an awareness of the inextricability of environmental protection and sustainable development.

23. While the notion of the indivisibility of environmental and development issues had been rapidly accepted on the theoretical plane, States’ practice had long been different: faced with the need to feed a population or with the problem of access to drinking water, States often relegated concerns about long-term climate risks to the background. But as recent discoveries by the best specialists in atmospheric science tragically demonstrated, it would be wishful thinking to believe that environmental problems could be postponed in the name of more

immediate development concerns. What threatened sustainable development goals the most was the acceleration of climate change, due to the simple fact that greenhouse gases, once in the atmosphere, remained there for at least a thousand years. Because of that, it was impossible to continue to burn coal and hydrocarbons without fearing the irreversible damage to the atmosphere that might result. Estimates showed that to have a chance of avoiding global warming of 2° C beyond pre-industrial temperature levels, at least 50 per cent of the proven oil, gas and coal reserves should not be used. Protecting the right to development, then, meant that half of those reserves must remain intact, at least until more efficient sequestration techniques than those currently available were developed.

24. Everyone agreed in theory that human rights were threatened by climate change and agreed on the need to prevent an increase beyond 2° C in temperature, but few States accepted the consequences in practical terms. The dilemma was well known: development depended on energy, yet more than 1.5 billion people lacked access to electricity and needed energy in general, and electricity in particular, to develop. The developed countries had practically exhausted the absorption capacity of existing carbon sinks, so that little room was left below any ceiling compatible with keeping temperature rise from climate change below 2° C. The dilemma was that development demanded more energy but that energy could not come from fossil fuel if one wanted to avoid climate change of catastrophic proportions. The only solution, therefore, was to switch as quickly as possible to alternative forms of energy. The cost of that transition should be assumed by countries that were best able to pay and those who had used up the available sinks. In that respect, he regretted the refusal of his country, the United States, to assume its fair share of the transition costs. The rest of the world, however, could not remain inactive. Developing countries whose sole sources of affordable energy were fossil fuels could continue to use them for a short while, but following the bad example of developed countries by remaining with fossil energy for too long would be suicidal. However, it was those countries that had the fewest resources for adaptation.

25. After the agricultural revolution — which had created stable human settlements and later large cities — and the industrial revolution — which had

brought modern prosperity at the expense of the environment, however indispensable it may have been to the economy and agriculture in particular — the third great revolution would have to create the most rapid possible transition to alternative sources of energy in order to preserve the ecological preconditions for sustainable development and indeed for agriculture. The most plausible exit strategy was the initially subsidized rapid expansion of renewable energy in order to speed the day of the tipping point when adequate energy became affordable for all, alleviating the energy poverty that blocked sustainable development, while alleviating the climate change that would undermine even the development already achieved.

26. In that context, he appealed to the Member States represented on the Economic and Social Council to breathe new life into global partnership, in order to accelerate the transition to implementing the regime of affordable alternative energy indispensable to sustainable development.

27. **Ms. Dupuy** (Uruguay) said that recognition of the right to development was perhaps most clearly reflected in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993, which emphasized the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights, including the right to development, and the interdependence and synergies between democracy, development and observance of human rights. It also stated that while development facilitated the enjoyment of all human rights, lack of development should not be invoked to justify limiting those rights.

28. The Millennium Development Goals were the result of an international consensus on the definition of priorities for action to overcome inequalities and social injustices. The eighth goal was the establishment of a global partnership to address the structural impediments to development. It was more difficult to achieve results during a crisis. A Doha Round outcome centred on development, providing new multilateral measures to open markets and eliminate or significantly reduce trade distorting factors, and benefiting developing countries, had yet to be achieved. Developed countries continued to devote significant resources to protecting their domestic and external markets, especially in agriculture, rather than to funding a network of basic social protection that did not distort trade and generated opportunities for other countries. Some well-intentioned national measures

being taken had detrimental effects at the international level, such as taxes on carbon dioxide emissions imposed on the transport of goods, which, by not forming part of an integrated global effort on climate change, could be likened to a new form of protectionism.

29. The Millennium Development Goals were an important step, but development meant more than poverty reduction or elimination of hunger. The international community should consider more targeted measures to help the most vulnerable and ensure equality of opportunity so that development objectives could be achieved. As stated by the Secretary General during the high-level segment, new challenges such as non-communicable diseases had also emerged and the holding of a high-level meeting on that issue at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly was to be welcomed. Tobacco use was responsible for 63 per cent of deaths. The question was a source of tension with the industries concerned, but it should be clear that the right to health was a fundamental right and therefore a priority in setting the direction of national strategies for public health and development.

30. In the Human Rights Council, the Open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development and its Task Force had established high-level criteria and indicators for the realization of the right to development. To assess progress in achieving economic, social and cultural rights, the United Nations had developed indicators that were also based on the situation of countries regarding civil and political rights and the right to development. It was clear that work must proceed on the basis of national development strategies, based on a powerful national political consensus in order to marshal concerted support from the international community. Through their work, the Working Group on the Right to Development and the Economic and Social Council could help to identify practical ways to promote and exploit synergies within the United Nations system and thus promote political but also operational coherence in achieving the right to development in all its complexity, always keeping the human person at the heart of concerns, without discrimination and in conformity with the principle of gender equality. A new work programme for development beyond 2015 also remained to be defined.

31. **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the

waves of change sweeping through the Arab world carried great promise for the future, while posing further challenges to development aspirations. In that context, it was necessary to underscore the international duty to cooperate, a principle embodied in the right to development. That individual and collective right entailed responsibilities for States individually and collectively to create a favourable international and national climate for its implementation.

32. In promoting the right to development, the Non-Aligned Movement was committed to mainstreaming the development perspective into human rights issues at the normative and operational levels, with assessment of the impact of development and development-related policies and programmes on the realization of the right to development. In addressing the right to development in light of the Millennium Development Goals, attention had focused on Millennium Development Goal 8 regarding global partnership for development, but current challenges called for going further. Meanwhile, the dysfunctions of global economic, financial and trading systems and policies, including the lack of democracy in decision-making at the global level, were hampering the equitable development of nations and therefore the realization of the right to development. The Non-Aligned Movement called for an impact assessment exercise on how far the United Nations system had incorporated the right to development, which would make possible a better balance of United Nations activities in the field and improve coherence by taking into account the link between human rights and development.

33. **Ms. Sagufta** (Bangladesh) said that because of globalization, policies made in one corner of the world had effects on the other side of the world; hence the vital importance of collective and shared responsibility and the need for a balance between national and international responsibilities. Many efforts of developing countries to achieve development did not bear fruit because of difficulties at the international level that were beyond their control. Those difficulties were rooted in the economic, financial and political systems governing international trade, migration, intellectual property, capital flows, and labour and technology transfer. Global economic governance must generate effective international cooperation for sustainable growth and development through ensuring

access to resources by developing countries. It was also vital to ensure their participation in global decision-making processes. It was disappointing that the realization of the right to development remained elusive despite all the efforts made since the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development. The international community should show greater political will and resolve to make the right to development a reality.

34. **Mr. Iliopoulos** (Hungary), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said in that the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development the definition of that right was not limited to purely economic goals or aspirations, but articulated a much broader vision of development. The right to development highlighted the multidimensional nature of development processes. The European Union was clearly committed to sustainable development, as evidenced by its participation in the Open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development and its weight in global development aid (about 60 per cent).

35. The European Union recalled that the full realization of all human rights, including the right to development, was an obligation for States, individually and collectively, within institutionalized frameworks such as regional and international organizations. There was a great similarity between the Declaration and the European Union's own concept of sustainable development and of the promotion and protection of all human rights. The right to development required a mix of various policies involving a wide range of actors at different levels, ensuring that the human being was the main participant and beneficiary of development.

36. **Ms. Arredondo Román** (Observer for Cuba) said that the right to development was one of the highest priorities of developing countries and of Cuba in particular, and that the progress made so far through supportive initiatives of cooperation and integration such as the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our America had not relied on foreign aid from developed countries, which was virtually non-existent, or on a positive trend in the global economic order, which remained unfair and continued to favour rich countries. Some 36 million people had fallen into extreme poverty between 1990 and 2005 and the absence of a solution to development problems meant that even the industrialized societies were suffering more and more, notably from uncontrolled or unmanageable migratory

flows, and diseases and epidemics resulting from conflicts related to poverty and hunger.

37. Cuba reaffirmed that if developed countries showed political will, it would take little for the right to development of billions of people to be realized. The most serious and immediate dangers to the right to development were wars and growing military spending. Ending terrorism and armed conflict required reducing inequalities, and achieving peace meant achieving general and complete disarmament, which included the arsenals of all major powers. The world had a great need for armies of doctors, teachers and engineers to defend health, education, progress and better standards of life.

38. **Mr. Cristofolo** (Observer for Brazil), referring to the stages leading up to the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, said that knowing the past helped to make the right decisions when the time came. Rejecting the argument that lack of development discharged international obligations regarding human rights, including the right to development, Brazil was nevertheless aware that the difficulties encountered in the development process impeded the full realization of human rights. It was therefore essential to strike a balance between those two approaches. As a member of the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Right Council, Brazil was well aware of the many components of the right to development and related issues, and their marked interdependence. He asked for the views of experts on the ability of right to development to resolve the conflict between civil and political rights on the one hand and economic, social and cultural rights on the other, and thus to contribute to realizing all human rights.

39. **Mr. Al-Marwani** (Saudi Arabia) said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was committed to realizing the right to development, the pillar of human rights, in three areas: first, the promotion of the right and its effective implementation, enshrined in the country's legal base; secondly, the adoption of balanced development plans involving the use of natural resources, which benefited all citizens and were reflected in national indicators of social, economic and human development; and thirdly, international cooperation, official development assistance and environmental protection, which had a special place in Saudi foreign policy. The level of assistance provided by Saudi Arabia placed it among the top global donors, and it had gone well beyond the United Nations target

of 0.7 per cent of GDP devoted to official development assistance.

40. **Ms. Bratten** (Norway) said her country believed that the right to development was critical and supported the measures taken to support development and the Millennium Development Goals. The desire to realize the right to development had inspired the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals. Despite many obstacles and difficulties, undeniable progress had been made but much remained to be done, including strengthening the fight against discrimination and reducing maternal and infant mortality.

41. The notion of the right to development, a major topic of much debate in the Human Rights Council and other bodies, had evolved over time. It had led to the development of the Millennium Development Goals, reflecting the interdependence of all human rights.

42. She asked participants for their views on the major issues that the Human Rights Council should consider with respect to the work that remained to be done to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the context of right to development, and on the outlook beyond 2015.

43. **Mr. Arvinador-Kanyirige** (Ghana) said his country supported the statement made by the representative of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development. In Ghana, the need to realize the right to development was primarily felt in rural areas, home to the majority of the population. Success would require harmonizing policies, strengthening system-wide operational coherence, developing strategies focused on the needs of rural areas by promoting better rural governance, developing energy infrastructure and promoting an environmental rural economy. In 2011, Ghana had decided to adhere to the principles of the Delivering as One initiative and was committed to promoting the right to development, through its programme of shared growth and development in the medium term, with a view to the Millennium Development Goals, with the cooperation of international partners.

44. **Ms. Itoe** (Cameroon), deploring the ill effects of tobacco and its deleterious impact on health of young people, expressed support for a total ban on smoking,

which would allow people to devote their scarce resources to food.

45. **Ms. Bloem** (CIVICUS), reaffirming that human rights and development were inseparable, said that her organization fully supported the comments of the representatives of Brazil and Norway. She welcomed the concrete exchange of views between the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council, which was conducive to a more coherent system, and hoped that other similar meetings would take place.

46. **Ms. Dupuy Lasserre** (President of the Human Rights Council) said that the final decision about the direction for future work of the Human Rights Council would be up to its 47 Member States. Combating discrimination against women was, in her view, a theme that remained relevant, as evidenced by the recent discussions held in the Human Rights Council. The work programme for the coming years was unclear, but it would focus on the diverse challenges of our time, including the impact of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights, the role of women in society, the right to education and health and the right to live in a healthy environment. Since all human rights were interdependent, a multidisciplinary approach was called for, building on the work and conclusions of holders of mandates under special procedures and special rapporteurs. Referring to the observation made by the representative of Cameroon, Ms. Dupuy Lasserre said that the problem of tobacco called for international action, but it was also part of individual lifestyle choices.

47. **Mr. Shue** (University of Oxford) stressed the importance of not making distinctions between the various human rights in the current context of climate change, because it would be necessary to adapt to a new situation that might have implications for all human rights. Referring to the issue of extracting oil sands in Canada, he urged the Secretary of State of the United States of America, Ms. Clinton, not to approve the construction of the Keystone pipeline, which in his view was an unreasonable venture in light of scant fossil fuel reserves and the needs of the poor countries, which had no other choice but to resort to that type of fuel.

48. **Ms. Pillay** (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) referring to the statement of the representative of Cameroon, recalled that the World Health Organization had established World No Tobacco

Day, observed annually on 31 May, to combat that scourge. She recognized that it was essential to educate youth about the dangers of drug abuse and alcohol consumption.

49. Like the representative of CIVICUS, she noted with dismay that it was the first time in the twenty-five year existence of the Declaration on the Right to Development that the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council were meeting to discuss common concerns, at the initiative of the Human Rights Council. Given the efforts of the Secretary-General, as part of the Delivering as One initiative, to give wide publicity to the promotion of human rights, the Millennium Development Goals and the fight against climate change, it was hoped that such exchanges would take place each year in order effectively to advance the right to development.

50. **Mr. Sha Zukang** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 41/128, had received the approval of 146 Member States of the 159 that were then members of the Organization. Since then, the number of Member States had increased to 193 and the trend was positive, because there was a general consensus on the need to promote the right to development. Yet, 25 years after the adoption of the Declaration, the picture was mixed: despite progress in the fight against poverty, the ideal of development for all was still something of a utopia. The mere fact of declaring the right to development an inalienable right was not enough: it was necessary to develop specific policies tailored to needs and States must create an environment conducive to development. The Economic and Social Council could help by promoting the improvement of living standards and economic and social progress, seeking solutions to economic, social and health problems, and advocating for universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

51. The Millennium Development Goals, the visible expression of the right to development, reflected the desire to enable the poor to enjoy the most basic economic and social rights. The international community must redouble its efforts to achieve them.

52. The realization of the right to development required making efficient use of environmental resources, and in that respect the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992

had been a major stride towards sustainable development. For the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, it was essential that all actors be mobilized. The Declaration on the Right to Development stated that States had the duty to cooperate with each other, and it was essential that they comply with their commitments if the multiple crises that the world faced were to be overcome.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.