



# Economic and Social Council

Provisional

8 September 2011

English

Original: French

---

## Substantive session of 2011

### Provisional summary record of the 41st meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 22 July 2011, at 3 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Grauls (Vice President)..... (Belgium)

## Contents

Debate on miscellaneous matters (*continued*)

Coordination, Programme, and Other Questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

(b) Proposed programme-budget for the biennium 2012-2013

(f) African countries emerging from conflict

(h) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

United Nations research and training institutes

---

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 Unit, room E 4108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.



*In the absence of the President, Mr. Grauls (Belgium), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

*The Meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

#### **Debate on miscellaneous matters** (*continued*)

#### **Coordination, Programme, and Other Questions** (Item 7 of the agenda)

##### **(a) Reports of coordination bodies** (A/66/16)

##### **(b) Proposed programme-budget for the biennium 2012-2013** [corresponding sections of document A/66/6: A/66/6 (Sect. 9), A/66/6 (Sect. 10), A/66/6 (Sect. 12), A/66/6 (Sect. 13), A/66/6 (Sect. 14), A/66/6 (Sect. 15), A/66/6 (Sect. 16), A/66/6 (Sect. 16/Corr.1), A/66/6 (Sect. 17), A/66/6 (Sect. 18), A/66/6 (Sect. 19), A/66/6 (Sect. 20), A/66/6 (Sect. 21), A/66/6 (Sect. 22), A/66/6 (Sect. 23), A/66/6 (Sect. 24), A/66/6 (Sect. 25), A/66/6 (Sect. 26), A/66/6 (Sect. 26/Corr.1) and A/66/6 (Sect. 27)]

##### **(f) African countries emerging from conflict**

##### **(h) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields** (E/2011/128)

**United Nations research and training institutes** (E/2011/115, E/2011/116 and E/2011/129) (Item 15 of the agenda)

#### *Opening statements*

1. **Mr. Lopes** (Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research - UNITAR), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the Institute (E/2011/115), said that the primary purpose of UNITAR was to develop beneficiaries' capacity through training and research on knowledge systems. In 2010, the number of beneficiaries had increased to 23,655, a 33% increase over the figure for 2009, with over half the beneficiaries taking part in activities run jointly by the Institute and its partners. Nearly 70% of those benefiting from training activities or involved in training were of African, Asian, Latin American or Caribbean origin and the overall male/female ratio was 60/40. These results had been achieved thanks to a dynamic group of committed and motivated professionals working for one of the United Nations organisations with the best gender balance.

2. In 2010, the Institute had begun to implement a new series of strategic priorities geared to the effectiveness of measures taken to identify and respond

to beneficiary needs; the quality and diversity of training products and services; effectiveness, efficiency and accountability; and increased autonomy.

3. Thanks to its efforts to establish its reputation in the professional training sector, the Institute was achieving impressive results in numerous fields: emerging thematic priorities, gender equality, virtual learning, technology-enhanced learning, application of internationally recognized quality standards, results-based management, web-based course management, increased financial autonomy thanks to self-generated income. In addition, the Institute had expanded its network of partners, reaching out to new private sector actors.

4. For a second consecutive biennium (2008-2009), the Audit Committee of the United Nations [CHECK] had issued an unqualified opinion with no reservations regarding the Institute's financial statements. All previous recommendations had been implemented. The Institute remained proud of its solid financial position. In 2010, its revenue had increased to US\$20.9 million, 18% up on the figure for 2008, thanks to growth in earmarked voluntary contributions.

5. Nevertheless, the Institute continued to struggle with weak and unpredictable non-earmarked voluntary contributions to the General Fund. In 2010, the General Fund balance amounted to US\$879,000 (or 4.2% of total revenue) compared to US\$1.1 million in 2008, a worrying 20% decline. Responses to the appeal for contributions to the Fellowship Fund remained regrettably low, with, thus far, only three Member States contributing a total of US\$80,000. In 2010 alone, outlays for offices occupied by the Institute in Geneva accounted for approximately 40% of that year's total contributions to the General Fund.

6. In his report, the Secretary-General urged the Member States to provide the means that the Institute needed and to identify concrete actions aimed at finding a sustainable solution.

7. **The President** invited Mr. Lopes to take the floor once again, this time in his capacity as Director of the United Nations System Staff College.

8. **Mr. Lopes** (Director of the United Nations System Staff College), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations System Staff College, said that, thanks to the dedication of its team of approximately 40 people, the College had trained

over 14,000 participants in 2010, 23% more than in 2009. The College's revenue had increased 18% in 2010, over 2009, while its expenditures had increased 21% in the same period. The proportion of self-generated revenue to total revenue in 2010 had increased from 56% in 2009 to 70%, as a result of the College's strategy to become less dependent on donors.

9. The United Nations System's increasing trust in the College's activities testified to its improved reputation, particularly as regards its strategic leadership training courses. Promising results had been achieved in all programme areas, with the College's results-based budgeting execution rate in 2010 reaching 90%.

10. The College had continued to refine the range of training courses it offered so as to align them to the United Nations System's constantly evolving needs. It had embarked on a number of initiatives to foster a more cohesive management culture across the System by jointly training staff from the different entities in the System using innovative methods combining theory and practice. In the period under review it had trained more than 100 directors and 200 country teams. The College's work with the United Nations Development Group had translated into various forms of assistance to country teams aimed at promoting system-wide coherence and efficiency. The College's knowledge management and knowledge sharing activities had reached out to a large number of staff working in the United Nations system, satisfying a demand for more in-depth understanding of the concept. Since 2009, approximately 7,000 people had benefited from training courses in mission staff safety and security provided in cooperation with the Department of Safety and Security. The College had also carried out a number of conflict prevention and peacekeeping-related activities, thereby helping to prepare United Nations personnel for the new challenges arising in connection with peace and security issues. The College worked together with a large number of partners both within the United Nations system and with the international academic community.

#### *Interactive discussion*

11. **Mr. Pintado** (Mexico) welcomed the progress made by UNITAR in improving its working methods, implementing new technologies and expanding the scope of its professional training programmes, in particular in developing countries. The significant

increase in the number of beneficiaries of those programmes was a clear sign of the impact of the Institute's activities and of its determination to achieve tangible results. Mexico had benefited directly from its training programmes, especially those for young diplomats and those addressing environmental issues.

12. Although there had been an increase in earmarked voluntary contributions, the Mexican delegation was concerned at the shortage of contributions to the Institute's regular budget, which were needed to cover the administrative costs of the expansion of its professional development courses. The Mexican delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendations, aimed at increasing the volume of non-earmarked contributions, which were essential for the Institute to be able to continue its work.

13. **Mr. Chatelus** (France) said that the shift toward a new business model and increased self-generated income, especially the new differentiated invoicing system for activities under the basic diplomatic training programme, was an ambitious but necessary project. The French delegation was glad that the problems that had forced certain States to forgo all training during part of 2010 had been resolved, thanks to the introduction of the new à la carte payment system.

14. The French delegation shared the Secretariat's concern about how to pay for general operating expenses and invited the Institute to continue its quest for new partner countries and inter-agency financing, particularly in connection with announcements by various organizations of capacity development projects that could be conducted in partnership with the Institute. The delegation also encouraged the Institute to look for other sponsors and trusted that the overheads financing question would quickly be solved.

15. **Mr. Vicenti** (Italy) said that inter-agency cooperation was especially important for the work of the United Nations System Staff College in light of the growing need for a coordinated response of the United Nations to current global problems. It was essential that the College participate in the reform of the United Nations by supporting the United Nations Country Teams. The Italian delegation noted with interest the tripartite agreements reached by the College, UNITAR and the peacekeeping operations and mission support departments. Taking note of the College's use of up-to-date learning tools, the growth in the number of

beneficiaries of its training programmes and increased partnerships with academic institutions of the south, the delegation observed with satisfaction that the Staff College had also considerably increased the share of self-generated income in its funding.

16. **Mr. Ustinov** (Russian Federation) said the United Nations Institute for Training and Research had managed to transition into an institution that was results-oriented. It had increased the number of its donors and expanded the scope of its programmes in response to new developments in international relations. By expanding its distance-learning programmes it had cut costs and increased the number of beneficiaries, especially in the developing and the least developed countries. The Russian Federation welcomed the Institute's offer of programmes relating to international law and migration and it was fully satisfied with the Strategic Plan for 2010-2012. It also welcomed the opening of a UNITAR office in Brasilia, the establishment of the Quality Assurance Committee, and the steps taken to improve staff performance evaluation. Noting that the new management model that UNITAR would shortly adopt should enable it to reduce administrative costs, the Russian delegation said it was nevertheless concerned about the decline in the Institute's General Fund resources, which could hamper reforms. The Russian Federation fully supported the Secretary-General's call for more flexible, non-earmarked financing.

17. **Mr. Alami-Hamedane** (Morocco) said that Morocco supported Argentina's statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He said that while UNITAR offered training and capacity-building programmes, including basic training for diplomats from developing countries, its mission also included making certain United Nations activities more effective, especially its peacekeeping and security activities and the promotion of economic and social development. The Institute had embarked on ambitious reforms that had enabled it to adopt results-based management tools and become more efficient. The Moroccan delegation strongly supported calls to endow UNITAR with the financial and human resources that would allow it to continue and to strengthen its activities. A leader in its field, UNITAR was well positioned to develop its research and training activities and thereby do even more to meet the expectations of the developing countries. The

Moroccan delegation supported the recommendations set forth in the Secretary-General's report.

18. **The President** said that the Council had concluded its general discussion of items 7 (a), 7 (b) and 15 of the agenda.

*Decision on document E/2011/L.10 presented with reference to item 7(h) of the agenda.*

19. **The President** invited the Council to look at the Secretariat's note on the Provisional Calendar of Conferences and Meetings in the Economic, Social and Related Fields for 2012 and 2013 (document E/2011/L.10) and drew the Council's attention to a letter addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council by the Chair of the Committee on Conferences (E/2011/128).

20. **The President** said that if there were no objections he would consider that the Council approved the Provisional Calendar of Conferences and Meetings in the Economic, Social and Related Fields for 2012 and 2013, as shown in document E/2011/L.10.

21. *It was so decided.*

*Decision on the draft resolutions presented with reference to Item 15 of the agenda.*

*Decision on draft resolution E/2011/L.25*

22. **The President** invited the Council to look at draft resolution E/2011/L.25, "United Nations System Staff College in Turin (Italy)", and pointed out that the title should read "Draft resolution" and not "Draft decision". He told the Council that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

23. *The Council adopted draft resolution E/2011/L.25.*

*Decision on draft resolutions E/2011/L.19 and E/2011/L.39*

24. **The President** invited the Council to pronounce on draft resolution E/2011/L.39, "United Nations Institute for Training and Research", presented following consultations regarding draft resolution E/2011/L.19. He told the Council that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

25. *The Council adopted draft resolution E/2011/L.39.*

26. In light of the adoption of draft resolution E/2011/L.39, the President concluded that draft resolution E/2011/L.19 had been withdrawn by its sponsors.

27. *It was so decided.*

*Oral decision on the documentation submitted under items 7 (a), 7 (b) and 15 of the agenda.*

28. **The President** drew attention to the Annual Overview Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2010/11 and to the Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of the fifty-first session (A/66/16), both submitted in connection with item 7 (a); to the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 submitted with reference to item 7(b); and to the Report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University (E/2011/129), submitted in connection with item 15. The President proposed that the Council take notes of all these documents.

29. *It was so decided.*

30. **The President** declared that the discussion of items 7 (a), 7 (b), 7 (h) and 15 of the agenda had concluded.

*The meeting was adjourned at 3.50 p.m. and resumed at 4.25 p.m.*

**Coordination, Programme, and Other Questions:  
African countries emerging from conflict (Item 7 (f)  
of the agenda)**

31. **The President** invited the members of the Council to examine item 7(f) on the agenda and reminded them that, in its decision 2010/231, the Council had decided to invite the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to inform it of the economic and social challenges of peacebuilding in the African countries on the Commission's agenda. Over the years, the Council had striven to respond to the particular needs of African countries emerging from conflict, especially by establishing ad hoc advisory groups to promote an integrated approach to relief, reconstruction and development and encourage the mobilization of resources. Such groups had been established for two of the countries the Commission was currently engaged in: Burundi and Guinea-Bissau. Although those groups were no longer active, those two countries had played a key role in the development

of the notion of an integrated approach to peacebuilding and had helped fill the gaps in the architecture put in place by the United Nations to assist countries emerging from conflict.

32. On June 13, 2011, the Council and the Commission had met informally to promote sustainable peace and development in Sudan and South Sudan. The informal summary of that meeting had been distributed to all member states and made available for examination in connection with item 7 (f). The periodic briefings by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission on best practices and on the lessons learned by the Commission were of great value to the Council's work, because it enabled the Council to fine-tune the advice and guidance it gives to countries at risk of falling between the cracks, and for which there were no institutionalized intergovernmental mechanisms. The briefing of the day was also welcome at a time when the Council was preparing its full four-year Policy Review of United Nations system operational activities for development.

33. **Mr. Gasana** (Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission) , speaking via video link, said that the Economic and Social Council could play a decisive role in ensuring that socio-economic development remained central to the international community's support and commitment to countries emerging from conflict. In all its efforts to handle post-conflict situations all over the world, the United Nations faced a huge challenge: how to ensure swift and lasting socio-economic dividends. The Peacebuilding Commission had often stressed that such dividends were necessary to signal the shift from conflict to peace. In its discussions with the United Nations and the World Bank, as well as other stakeholders, the Commission had underscored the need to: (a) establish in countries emerging from conflict a link between security issues, the economy and employment generation; (b) focus at an early stage on building national capacity; support delivery of quick dividends and institution-building for the long term; ensure national ownership of peacebuilding initiatives; and make sure that international support for the peacebuilding process takes the form of demand-driven interventions in the areas of security, political affairs, and development.

34. Since July 2010, two more African countries – Liberia and Guinea – had been added to the four countries already on the Commission's agenda:

Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. In Burundi, where elections had been held in 2010, the Commission was focusing on assistance with the drafting of a new poverty reduction strategy paper and with raising the resources needed for it.

35. As regards the Central African Republic, the Commission had been working, since July 2010, on helping the Government to prepare presidential and legislative elections. Its efforts had yielded US\$7.5 million for the elections budget. Following the elections, the Government had prepared a new poverty reduction strategy paper that details the country's peacebuilding priorities. Later on, the Government had organised a roundtable on the Central African Republic's development and peacebuilding needs, with the support of the Commission, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

36. In Guinea, the Commission had responded to a request made by the Guinean Government following the 2010 elections for the Commission to help promote national reconciliation and unity, security and defence sector reform and policies to boost employment for youth and women.

37. The Guinean Government and the Commission were currently meeting in a "Guinea" configuration to work out an instrument establishing areas of mutual commitment with respect to the three priorities indicated by the Guinean Government and taking into consideration the conclusions of missions that had visited the country.

38. In the case of Guinea-Bissau, following the violent events of 2010, which had led the major bilateral donors to suspend all non-humanitarian assistance, the Commission had taken up the country's cause with international financial institutions, while at the same time urging the civilian and military authorities to work together to strengthen the institutions needed for economic development, uphold the rule of law and combat impunity, drug trafficking and organized crime. The essential measures adopted by the civilian and military authorities to normalize the country had enabled Guinea-Bissau to achieve, at the end of 2010, completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and thereby benefit from debt reduction and new subsidies. The country's economic continued on a path toward stabilisation.

39. Since September 2010, the Commission's Liberia configuration has been sensitizing its members to the peacekeeping problems the country faces: reform of the security sector, the rule of law and national reconciliation. The Government, the United Nations and civil society had recently reached an agreement on ways to compile a national reconciliation strategy, Measures to support activities on the ground and regional poles to achieve security and justice had been worked out thanks to the Commission's backing.

40. Since the end of the civil war, Sierra Leone had made considerable progress with anti-corruption measures and youth employment, but the elections scheduled for 2012 posed both political and practical challenges. The last phase of the peacebuilding process could not materialize without a marked improvement in living conditions and, hence, without a significant increase in private investment. Fortified by its liaison role among the major stakeholders, the Commission was helping Sierra Leone to shed its image of a country emerging from conflict and to become a country eager to attract private investment.

41. The sustained cooperation between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Economic and Social Council, particularly at the joint annual meetings on matters of mutual interest, such as that held recently in Sudan and South Sudan, underscored the socio-economic dimension of peacebuilding and its importance for development.

42. Philanthropists, foundations and private enterprises were ready to assist the least privileged populations. It would be good if, taking advantage of its friendly relations with those actors, the Economic and Social Council could establish new partnerships, in order for countries emerging from conflict to benefit from additional assistance and a stronger commitment. For that it was advisable to take the underlying causes of conflicts into account. Determining what they were called for lasting commitment, constant attention, sufficient resources and the mobilisation of national leaders.

43. **The President** urged the delegations to discuss strengthening their ties with the Peacebuilding Commission, the best practices mentioned by the Chair of the Commission, which could be useful to the Council, and the resources at the disposal of the Council for supporting the new State of South Sudan and for contributing to the General Assembly's work

on the cause of conflicts and the promotion of sustainable peace and development.

44. **Ms. Tembo** (Zambia) said that the Economic and Social Council could take the Peacebuilding Commission's conclusions into consideration at its next substantive session. Conflict prevention and peacebuilding required a comprehensive approach, with proper coordination of assistance to countries emerging from conflict and consideration of the correlations that had been established between poverty, the limited capacities of State and conflicts. Thanks to coordination between the Economic and Social Council and close cooperation with the Commission, the lessons learned from peacebuilding activities in the economic, social, humanitarian and environmental spheres could also be put to good use by United Nations agencies and programmes. The latter should work together to prepare policies and work out solutions for supporting countries emerging from conflict. In that way, thanks to firm and concerted commitment on the part of inter-governmental organizations, the United Nations system and other stakeholders, South Sudan would be able to advance more swiftly toward peace and development.

*The meeting was closed at 5:00 p.m.*