



# Economic and Social Council

Provisional

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## Substantive session of 2011

### Provisional summary record of the 45th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 26 July 2011, at 3 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Rosacha (Acting Vice-President)..... (Slovakia)

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

**General segment** *(continued)*

*Panel discussion on the theme “Strengthening working links between the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Development Policy”*

1. **The President** said that the aim of the panel discussion was to take fuller advantage of the contributions of the Committee for Development Policy to the work of the Council. That meant holding more frequent dialogue sessions, which should facilitate a constructive look at the Committee's analyses and recommendations. In the absence of such an examination, the Committee's enlightened opinions got lost among the many reports that the Council must consider. Such sessions ought further to afford an opportunity for exchanges between the two bodies, which would provide the Committee with clearer guidance on the Council's priorities regarding the various questions it considered. In recent years, the Council had striven to promote and follow up on the implementation of internationally set development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals. It was suggested that the Committee should communicate its initial views on the theme of the 2012 annual ministerial review, namely the promotion of productive capacity, employment and decent work in order to eliminate poverty within the context of inclusive, viable and equitable economic growth at all levels with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

2. **Ms. Stewart** (Chairperson of the Committee for Development Policy and Director of the Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity at the University of Oxford) said she welcomed the prospect of closer collaboration between the Committee for Development Policy and the Economic and Social Council. That collaboration had hitherto consisted in holding an information session for the Council's Bureau at the end of the annual meeting of the Committee (in March, usually) and informing the delegations as a whole. The Committee had also participated in the general preparatory meeting for the 2011 annual ministerial review, as well as in the Council's high-level segment, where it had reported on the work it had done.

3. Every three years the Committee reviewed the list of least developed countries (LDCs), and each year it looked at the progress made by the countries that had emerged from that group in order to ensure that their graduation was fully warranted. It also reviewed the criteria for inclusion on the LDC list. In 2011 it had undertaken to study the question of migration throughout the world and it was currently working on development models within the framework of the elaboration of strategies for development after 2015.

4. As for the 2012 annual ministerial review devoted to employment, the Committee's initial thoughts were that progress in that area was disappointing, especially during and after the global recession: an increase in the number of “working poor”, primarily in developing countries, and growing unemployment worldwide, particularly manifest in developed countries. The proportion of precarious jobs throughout the world exceeded 50 per cent, even approaching 80 per cent in South Asia. Too often, moreover, the working poor were women. The persistence of insecurity and underemployment had the effect of maintaining poverty and increasing criminality and was likely to give rise to violent conflicts. Employment must be synonymous with decent work with fair pay, performed under reasonable conditions. The principal determinants of the development of decent work were the growth rate of production, the nature of the growth and the skills of the workforce. Both demand and supply must be addressed: in other words, growth as well as workforce skills. Thus, the sectors capable of creating jobs must be supported and dynamic links created between growth-producing sectors, which were generally industrial sectors, and the rest of the economy. Policies aimed at strengthening the capacities of the workforce must be developed, with special attention devoted to the situation of women and the protection of the environment.

5. The Committee for Development Policy hoped to be able to study examples of best practices for job creation throughout the world, as well as development strategies that had led to an appreciable increase in decent work, especially in work sectors related to environment.

6. **Mr. Kapambwe** (President of the Economic and Social Council) expressed his deepest sympathy to the Norwegian people and Government in the wake of the tragedy that had plunged the country into mourning; to the Chinese people and Government, following the recent railway accident in China; and to the countries

of the Horn of Africa, which were suffering from a grave drought.

7. He expressed the wish that the Council would put forward some ideas that the Committee for Development Policy might take into account in preparing the annual ministerial review, starting with the question of jobless growth, a phenomenon particularly noticeable in LDCs, many of which had a young population and a growing labour force. Those countries still lacked the ability to create decent jobs owing to a shortage of productive capacity in agriculture and manufacturing, insufficient investment in infrastructure, limited financial capacity and great vulnerability to natural phenomena and external influences.

8. In the area of strengthening of productive capacity, it would be helpful for the Committee to concern itself with synergy between the Istanbul Plan of Action and the forthcoming annual ministerial review. The structural constraints of LDCs must be eliminated so as to favour equitable growth for all social groups, including women, the youth and other vulnerable groups. The question was what the elements of the new shared growth models were and what the role of the international community was in that area. Equitable, shared growth rested in particular on education, the theme of the 2011 annual ministerial review. Quality education for everyone at all levels of education was of great importance in enhancing productive capacity, but going hand in hand with human resources development there must be investment in physical capital. Many were the developing countries, especially LDCs, that suffered from an infrastructure deficit, which had the effect of alienating private investors. Investment in productive capacity must be contemplated within the framework of national strategies to promote development. In developing countries, especially those in which much of the population was employed in agriculture, efforts must be aimed at rural areas in order to increase productivity, enhance food security and empower women.

9. As far as job creation was concerned, micro- and small enterprises could play an important role; however, they were short-lived and in fact the number of enterprises within that category that were established each year was comparable to the number of those that went out of business. That pattern was explainable primarily by the lack of access to credit, the absence of appropriate technologies and limited management skills. Clearly, action was necessary to

assist those enterprises, but it was still not very clear how to proceed. The recent global economic crisis had thwarted efforts to reduce poverty by 50 per cent by the year 2015. While it was true that macroeconomic policy must be geared towards greater employment gains, it was also necessary to attack the systemic causes and enhance coordination of the policies of the principal economies. Of course, one must have appropriate mechanisms in order to do so. In an initial phase, it was imperative to complete the Doha Development Agenda. It would be helpful to take advantage of the experience of developing countries that had moved up to higher production, income and employment levels, and there was no shortage of examples, especially in Asia. Finally, it was also important for the Committee to start a dialogue on the content of the post-2015 development framework.

10. **Mr. Sammis** (United States of America) said that his country highly appreciated what the Committee for Development Policy accomplished. It favoured strengthened collaboration between the Committee and the Economic and Social Council and hoped that the Council would ensure, from that point of view, that the independence of the Committee was preserved, for that was its chief strong point. Addressing Ms. Stewart, Mr. Sammis said he would like to know how best to organize future action and what elements should be taken especially into account in the interest of LDCs. Referring to Equatorial Guinea, he asked for delegations' views concerning the creation of a more appropriate LDC graduation mechanism, noting that some countries, including Equatorial Guinea, were reluctant to become middle income countries.

11. **Ms. Montel** (France) enquired about the consultation method which the Committee for Development Policy intended to adopt within the framework of the 2012 annual ministerial review and took the opportunity to encourage it to take into account the forthcoming conclusions of the Group of Twenty and, more particularly, the Group of Twenty labour and employment ministers meeting, to be held in September 2011. She said she would like to know whether a special meeting with the International Labour Office was planned to discuss questions relating to employment; how the Committee was preparing for the 2012 review in the light of the removal of some countries from the LDC list; and whether the Committee intended to enter into dialogue with the General Assembly or the Economic and Social

Council throughout the year in order to keep Member States informed in due time of any changes, such as the amendment of the criteria for the identification of least developed countries. She also requested particulars concerning the elements on which the Committee based itself in defining the third topic.

12. **Mr. Wang Qun** (China), noting the difficulties encountered by microenterprises in obtaining adequate financial resources, requested the opinion of the Committee for Development Policy on the matter and asked whether solutions had been contemplated in that area. He said he would also like to know whether suggestions had been made within the Committee during the discussion of the elaboration of post-2015 development strategies.

13. **Ms. Stewart** (Chairperson of the Committee for Development Policy and Director of the Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity at the University of Oxford), recalling that the Committee for Development Policy had only recently begun its work, emphasized that her responses were simply her own and told the delegations that the Committee would take account of their interesting observations. The problem of employment in developed countries was of special interest owing to its close connection with the crisis, public sector deficits and the attempt to make up those deficits, which, so far, had met with failure. The problem existed to a lesser extent in countries belonging to other categories. In LDCs, two major challenges must be noted: namely, different employment regimes (large employment projects launched in India or public works projects to which one could resort to create infrastructure, for example) and the viability of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME).

14. As for the methods the Committee intended to follow throughout the year, it must be noted that the Committee met once a year and corresponded by means of electronic messages the rest of the time. Various meetings were planned, such meetings being held generally in the presence of representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Information meetings should also be organized with the members of the Economic and Social Council at the time of the March session. The Committee should also contribute to the work of the ministerial meeting on employment, as well as to the high-level segment.

15. Regarding changes to the criteria for defining LDCs, the Committee had examined that question

during 2011 with a view to establishing criteria to be applied in 2012. The minor changes made would have no impact on the countries classified as LDCs. More weight had been accorded to vulnerability and the definition of victims of natural disasters had been expanded—changes aimed primarily at taking into account modern-day concerns relating to the environment. As to the choice of the third theme, the question fell generally within the sphere of the secretariat and depended on points that were sources of concern, but also on the spheres of competence and interests defended by members of the Committee. It was thus an interactive process to which the Council might possibly contribute. Lastly, with regard to the elaboration of the post-2015 framework, the Committee would take into consideration questions not covered by the Millennium Development Goals, i.e., the macroeconomic situation of countries, and inequalities.

16. **Mr. Kapambwe** (President of the Economic and Social Council) subscribed to the statement of the delegation of the United States of America and confirmed the need to take steps to encourage countries to graduate from the LDC list. In that connection, it was important to find solutions to the problems mentioned by Ms. Stewart, especially the problem of vulnerability. The statistics pointing to positive growth in LDCs often concealed the existence of underlying economic problems. Thus, countries' reluctance to graduate from the LDC category actually reflected their fear of still being highly vulnerable. Zambia, for example, which continued to depend on copper exports, showed a positive growth rate, though its impact on poverty remained negligible. Should the bottom drop out of copper prices, however, any gains would very quickly be reduced to naught. For that reason, graduation of an LDC to another rating must be ensured over a lengthy period. The contribution of the Committee for Development Policy to the discourse on means of strengthening the mechanisms that promoted emergence from LDC status would be highly useful. With regard to collaboration with the International Labour Office on the 2012 theme, the Economic and Social Council and the Office were considering organizing discussions on growth models and the gaps in social security systems as well as on any questions raised by the Committee for Development Policy.

17. **Ms. Cortez** (Secretary of the Committee for Development Policy) said that countries that ought to graduate from LDC status should be subjected to a

study within the framework of the preparations for the 2012 review of the LDC list. On that occasion, countries would be invited to participate in the meeting of experts and make known their views concerning the prospects offered by graduation. Furthermore, a study was being conducted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to evaluate the impact of the withdrawal of aid measures applied in LDCs on the economic growth of those countries. In a study entitled "Vulnerability profile", the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) drew the attention of the Committee for Development Policy to certain specificities of LDCs that were not necessarily included among the criteria for defining such countries.

18. Regarding the establishment of incentives to graduation, it should be noted that the mere fact of attaining a certain per capita income and certain social results was an encouragement in itself. Nevertheless, the Committee had stressed the need to help those countries pass through the transition period smoothly, a point that had also been emphasized at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, whose Plan of Action had called for the establishment of a working group to study the experience of countries that had gone through that kind of transition. The 2012 review would deal with the countries that had graduated from the list of LDCs, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 59/209, and the Committee would make recommendations on the transition process.

19. **Ms. Geissler** (Germany) saluted the work of the Committee for Development Policy and expressed the hope that it would call attention to the theme adopted for the 2012 discussions.

20. **Mr. Jaiswal** (India), returning to the question of the definition of a new framework for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, said he would like to hear the opinion of the Committee for Development Policy on the prospects that might be contemplated and the attitude to be adopted, considering the differing views on the issue.

21. **Ms. Lin** (Australia) expressed the sincere condolences of her delegation to the Norwegian people. She would like to know the views of the Committee for Development Policy concerning the possibility, raised by the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, of establishing sustainable development

indicators. She also asked how the Committee would take into account the discussions conducted by the Security Council on the possible impact of climate change on security; what assistance was provided to LDCs to ensure their smooth graduation; and in what areas such assistance should be increased.

22. **Mr. Seth** (Director of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination), noting the weight accorded during the discussion to the mandates given by the Economic and Social Council to the Committee for Development Policy, said it would be interesting to set up a two-way process in which the Committee would discharge those mandates and also have the ability to propose themes for discussion within the Council. He wished to draw the Committee's attention to three issues that illustrated the conceptual challenges faced by the existing political processes: first, the need to rethink national statistics systems so that they made it possible to determine growth in the form of statistical data; second, the need to associate the framework of the Millennium Development Goals, the purpose of which was to guarantee decent living conditions, with the sustainable development framework, which related to fields that were just as important (living conditions, production, consumption), with a view to meeting basic needs in a sustainable manner; third, financial means, in thinking about which the Committee might move forward by taking into consideration other major current problems: climate change and treaty obligations. The Council was also planning to do some brainstorming in the near future on how to make use of new technologies to combat poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, a process to which the Committee might make a useful contribution.

23. **Mr. Ly** (Senegal), recalling that the United Nations system was currently striving to avoid duplication, asked whether the Committee's activities relating to decent work did not overlap with the important work done in that field by the International Labour Organization and whether the Committee had engaged in consultations with that organization. Similarly, in respect of the Committee's activities relating to migration, he would like to know whether the Committee had cooperated with the International Organization for Migration and the Committee on Migrant Workers.

24. **Ms. Bloem** (Observer for the World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)) asked whether the

Committee met only in closed sessions or whether civil society was encouraged to make its contribution during its sessions.

25. **Ms. Stewart** (Chairperson of the Committee for Development Policy and Director of the Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity at the University of Oxford) said in reply that the Committee had not yet precisely defined what its main avenues of action would be as of the target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It was currently looking into the philosophical aspects of its action and studying important elements such as the approach based on rights or the human development index. Some collective thinking on the question would seem useful. Regarding the definition of inclusive growth and the means of measuring development, she said she was favourable to a minimalist approach based on gross domestic product (GDP), but noted that it was difficult to develop precise indicators of inclusive growth. A more precise definition of inclusive growth would first have to be adopted. Some had suggested using the notion of happiness, but that also raised the problem of defining happiness, and measuring “gross national happiness” seemed a difficult task; all those questions were important, even though they had not been addressed at the time when the Millennium Development Goals were being worked out, with highly concrete aims. It would no doubt prove difficult to arrive at a consensus in that area, but the Council and the Committee could contribute to the thinking process.

26. The sustainable nature of development and growth was unquestionably a crucial point and would remain so after 2015. Therefore, means of determining its scope should also be looked into. The question of funding, too, was crucial and arose on the global level, hence the utility of the Committee's examining it in depth. With regard to cooperation with other United Nations institutions, a distinction should be made between primary and secondary issues. Major organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) or ILO were usually brought into discussions on the main issues and the resources of their work were used; however, considering that only two persons in the Committee were charged with less important issues, it was difficult to invite representatives of other institutions, so that consultations took place in writing.

27. **Mr. Kapambwe** (President of the Economic and Social Council) urged the Committee, the member States and civil society to suggest to the Council

solutions to problems relating to financing. Under the current circumstances no increase in official development assistance could be expected, but it would be helpful to find ways to place the considerable financial resources of the private sector in the service of development activities and the public good.

28. **Ms. Cortez** (Secretary of the Committee for Development Policy) said that when the General Assembly took note of a recommendation to graduate a country from the list of least developed countries, actual implementation did not take place concretely until three years later. Meanwhile, the country continued to enjoy United Nations support as an LDC and had to prepare for a gentle transition strategy. The process had to be undertaken by the country itself, with the assistance of the United Nations system, as had been the case for Cape Verde or Maldives. On the question of participation of NGOs in the proceedings of the Committee, she pointed out that the Committee met in closed sessions and NGOs therefore did not have the right to take part in its meetings. They could contribute, nevertheless, in particular by sending in their publications, reports and other information.

**Coordination, programme and other questions: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)** (E/2011/109) (agenda item 7 (g))

**Social and human rights questions: Genetic privacy and non-discrimination** (E/2011/108) (agenda item 14 (i))

29. **The President** invited the Council to consider agenda items 7(g) and 14 (i).

#### *Introductory statements*

30. **Ms. Beagle** (Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS), introducing, under agenda item 7 (g), the report on UNAIDS activities prepared pursuant to Council resolution 2009/6 (E/2011/109), said she was pleased that, 30 years after the appearance of HIV/AIDS, the international community was moving towards the attainment of the common goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 6. She stressed that since 2009, appreciable progress had been made in combating AIDS. Globally, the number of adults newly infected with HIV had declined by nearly 20 per cent in the previous five years, while the number of AIDS-related deaths had fallen by 19 per cent and the number of children infected with

HIV, 24 per cent. The number of persons starting antiretroviral treatment was growing exponentially and greater recourse was being had to microbicides, circumcision and antiretroviral therapy to stop the transmission of the disease. From 2006 to 2010, the number of countries that had adopted laws and regulations aimed at combating HIV/AIDS discrimination had grown from 56 per cent to 71 per cent.

31. Still, those gains remained fragile: nearly 2 million people continued to die of HIV/AIDS every year in developing countries. In several regions of the world the number of new infections was on the rise, and 9 million people were still awaiting treatment. Women were particularly affected: HIV was the principal cause of death among women of childbearing age and 26 per cent of all new cases of HIV/AIDS infection around the world occurred in women aged 15 to 24 years. Moreover, for the first time, funding of the effort to combat HIV/AIDS had decreased.

32. Over the previous two years, UNAIDS had taken steps to enhance sustainable global anti-AIDS activity. Its new vision, entitled “zero new infection, zero AIDS-related death and zero discrimination”, had provided the direction for its strategy for 2011-2015, the aim of which was to speed up progress in three strategic areas: prevention of the disease; the promotion of human rights and gender equality; and the establishment of a new phase in the areas of treatment, care and support.

33. In July 2011 the General Assembly had adopted a political declaration aimed at intensifying efforts to eliminate HIV and AIDS (A/RES/65/277), the objectives of which went hand in hand with the UNAIDS strategy: reducing by 50 per cent, by 2015, the sexual transmission of HIV, the transmission of HIV among people who injected drugs and the number of deaths due to tuberculosis among people living with HIV; eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and substantially reducing AIDS-related maternal deaths; providing antiretroviral treatment to 15 million people; and making up for the shortage of resources worldwide for combating AIDS by increasing funding to 22 to 24 billion dollars per year. Mentioned in the declaration for the first time were the population groups most affected by AIDS, specifically men who had sex with men, people who injected drugs, and sex workers. At the same time, the Security Council had adopted its resolution 1983 (S/RES/1983 (2011)), in

which it reaffirmed the importance of the AIDS epidemic within the context of global security.

34. The new commitment of Member States to combating HIV/AIDS was also key to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Strategies designed to eradicate extreme poverty and promote food security, too, lessened the impact of the epidemic by strengthening HIV prevention programmes and developing antiretroviral therapy. Initiatives to promote education for all and equality between men and women also played a key role in the effort to eradicate AIDS. Truly defeating AIDS required a long-term investment that would redound to the benefit of all development sectors.

35. **Ms. Alvarez-Laso** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) introduced, under agenda item 14 (i), the report on follow-up to Council decision 2010/259 on Genetic privacy and non-discrimination (E/2011/108) and recalled that the Council had already considered that question at several of its previous sessions, taking up at the time the ethical and legal issues arising from the need to preserve the confidentiality of genetic data and fight discrimination in fields such as medicine, employment and insurance.

36. UNESCO had been designated by the Council to carry out consultations with the parties concerned (Member States and competent international organizations) in order to review the implementation of the normative instruments adopted within the framework of the United Nations system on genetic privacy and non-discrimination and had been charged with reporting on the results obtained. UNESCO had therefore consulted Member States on new developments in that area, on the one hand, and United Nations and international organizations having an interest in such questions, on the other hand, including the Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics.

37. From the consultations with Member States it had emerged that some countries had already adopted institutional or legislative measures to protect human rights against any discrimination based on genetic data. The countries had pointed to the need for coordinated international action to strengthen national capacities in that area.

38. The relevant United Nations agencies (UNESCO, WHO) and other international organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD), the Council of Europe and the European Commission, for their part, had set up, or were in the process of setting up, a whole range of programmes and initiatives to fight genetic discrimination. The consultations showed that it was important to promote international cooperation if States were to be given the means to address the ethical challenges of genetic sciences and their applications. It had become apparent, moreover, that the Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics might be a unique forum for facilitating discussion and the exchange of information on bioethics and related issues and promoting the coordination of activities in that area.

#### *General discussion*

39. **Mr. Am** (Argentina) said that in recent years his country had made appreciable progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS: the number of new infections had stabilized and mortality due to AIDS had declined by 15 per cent over the previous five years. The country currently counted approximately 130,000 persons infected with HIV, 43,000 of whom received free treatment and 70 per cent of whom received drugs directly from the Ministry of Health.

40. To guarantee access to health services and promote effective prevention founded on respect for human rights, Argentina had set up an awareness and prevention programme, which included HIV services and health services on sexuality and reproductive health for people living with HIV (women, children, young people, sex workers and their clients, transgender persons, homosexuals, persons deprived of their liberty, drug addicts, indigenous communities and migrants). In a pioneering move, Argentina had adopted a law permitting marriage between persons of the same sex and was currently looking into other draft laws that would facilitate the access of transgender and transsexual persons to care.

41. If the Millennium Development Goals were to be achieved, donors must be mobilized in favour of the South American continent and States must negotiate drug prices for the region while engaging in mutual assistance and exchanging their experience. Argentina underscored the importance of applying the Doha Declaration to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and public health, in particular paragraph 4 of the Declaration, which provided: “the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent Members from taking measures to

protect public health”. Argentina deemed it essential for the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to offer the requisite technical assistance to developing countries and the least developed countries and encouraged the effective application of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (GSPOA) adopted by WHO.

42. **Mr. Beshta** (Ukraine) said that the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the General Assembly in June 2011, clearly signified the political commitment and determination to combat that grave problem. His country also welcomed the new 2011-2015 UNAIDS strategy entitled “Getting to zero” and the global plan entitled “Countdown to zero”, as well as the new UNAIDS 2012-2015 Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework.

43. Ukraine, which was strongly committed to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 6, had made major strides in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, a national priority in the fight against the disease. In addition, an executive agency charged with coordinating and providing guidance for measures to combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases had recently been put in place. Within the framework of its national strategy on HIV/AIDS, Ukraine was making efforts to strengthen prevention and to provide treatment to seropositive individuals, while advocating for respect for their rights and tolerance towards them. The law on the prevention of AIDS and the social protection of the population, amended in 2010, dealt with prevention, treatment, care, support services and the legal and social protection of the population, in accordance with WHO and UNAIDS recommendations. Ukraine, which was concerned with respect for the human rights of seropositive persons, had recently abolished HIV-related travel restrictions.

44. Ukraine was aware of the numerous challenges that still remained and wished to commend the decisive role of bilateral donors, in addition to expressing its gratitude to the partners that helped in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the country, in particular UNAIDS and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

#### *Draft resolution E/2011/L.46*

45. **The President** invited the Council to consider draft resolution E/2011/L.46, entitled “Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)”.



46. **Ms. Menéndez** (Observer for El Salvador), introducing draft resolution E/2011/L.46, entitled “Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)”, on behalf of all its sponsors, said that it supported the implementation of the major pillars of anti-HIV/AIDS action adopted recently, namely the 2011-2015 UNAIDS strategy “Getting to zero” and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2011. They represented the best way to achieve the goals of zero new infection, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related death set by the international community.

47. In the draft resolution, the Council called upon all actors to intensify their efforts with a view to realizing the objectives set forth in the Political Declaration and urged UNAIDS to support the implementation of the Strategy and the Declaration. It called upon the United Nations system to strengthen coordinated action and provided that the report of the Executive Director of the Joint Programme should be transmitted to the Council at its substantive session of 2013. The report was to reflect the progress made in implementing the Strategy and the Declaration. She (Ms. Menéndez) announced that the following countries had also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Israel, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway and Uruguay, and said she hoped the draft would be adopted by consensus.

48. **Mr. Warida** (Egypt) stressed the importance of the draft resolution under consideration and recalled that an international consensus had emerged regarding the objectives of the fight against HIV/AIDS. Egypt recommended that the States members of the Council and UNAIDS respect the principles decided on and avoid adopting measures that might amount to interference in the internal affairs of States, especially with regard to legislation on prostitution or the sale of narcotics. It was also important to respect national health measures, so as to enable countries to supply drugs and treatments at affordable prices. Egypt also felt that UNAIDS would stand to gain by modifying its strategy and modernizing its working methods so as better to take account of the moral convictions of all countries and respect them. It was extremely important to ensure constant consensus with regard to the fight against HIV/AIDS if the goals set by mutual consent were to be achieved.

49. **The President** noted that Mexico and Thailand had also become sponsors of draft resolution

E/2011/L.46. Indicating that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications, he said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt it.

50. *Draft resolution E/2011/L.46 was adopted.*

51. **Mr. Henczel** (Observer for Poland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, reaffirmed that the Union fully supported the UNAIDS strategy “Getting to zero”, which must be the principal frame of reference for Joint Programme activities. It must be fully implemented if the needs of countries affected by HIV/AIDS were to be met.

52. The European Union, which had approved the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS pronounced in New York in June 2011 and taken part in its elaboration, deemed it an important document in that it established clear objectives and targeted population groups that required special attention.

53. The Union stressed the need to strengthen actions for assisting regions and countries particularly affected by HIV/AIDS. It must be noted, however, that in some countries response measures were not sufficient for meeting the needs of the groups most exposed. The European Union countries attached great importance to the concrete results of the efforts made to combat HIV/AIDS and funded many programmes for that purpose, while at the same time fighting discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

54. **Mr. Toscano** (Mexico) congratulated the Member States on having adopted the draft resolution and urged the international community to redouble its efforts to implement the UNAIDS strategy for 2011-2015.

55. **The President** invited the Council to take note of the report by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on genetic privacy and non-discrimination (E/2011/108).

56. *It was so decided.*

57. **The President** said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda items 7 (g) and 14 (i).

*The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.*