

**Economic and Social Council**

Provisional

22 September 2011

English

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Substantive session of 2011**Provisional summary record of the 47th meeting**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday 27 July 2011, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Seilenthal (Acting Vice-President) (Estonia)**Contents**General segment (*continued*)Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

- (a) Sustainable development (*continued*)
- (d) Human settlements (*continued*)
- (g) Public administration and development (*continued*)
- (h) International cooperation in tax matters (*continued*)
- (k) Cartography (*continued*)
- (m) Transport of dangerous goods (*continued*)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Seilenthal (Estonia), Acting Vice-Président, took the Chair.

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

General segment (*continued*)

Economic and environmental questions (agenda item 13) (*continued*)

1. **The President** invited the Council to continue its consideration of agenda items 13 (a), (d), (g), (k) and (m) and take action on the several pending draft resolutions.

Sustainable development (E/2011/29, E/2011/33, E/2011/33/Corr.1 and E/2011/110) (agenda item 13 (a)) (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2011/L.34

2. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2011/L.34, "Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its thirteenth session". He stated that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

3. **Ms. Kasárová** (Slovakia), introducing the draft resolution, directed the Council's attention to the fifth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2, 7 and 9. In the current year, those paragraphs contained important new provisions relating to, in particular, the Council's decision to hold, within existing resources, more frequent interactions with the Committee for Development Policy, inviting the Chair and other members of the Committee to participate in discussions and exchanges of views on the themes addressed by the Council at its high-level segment.

4. **The President** said that if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/2011/L.34.

5. *Draft resolution E/2011/L.34 was adopted.*

Draft resolution E/2011/L.52

6. **The President** said that the Council would take action on draft resolution E/2011/L.52, "Review of United Nations support for small island developing States", once information about its programme budget implications was available.

Human settlements (A/66/8 and E/2011/106) (agenda item 13 (d)) (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2011/L.48

7. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2011/L.48, "Human settlements", which had been drafted following unofficial consultations on draft resolution E/2011/L.20. He informed the Council that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

8. *Draft resolution E/2011/L.48 was adopted.*

9. **Ms. Handrujovicz** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the adoption by consensus of the resolution on human settlements. It was more important than ever to address the challenges related to runaway urbanization, which created social, economic and environmental problems and led to exponential growth in slums and in numbers of persons who had neither decent housing nor access to basic services. Action to ensure the sustainability of human settlements and decent housing for all was urgently necessary. The support of the international community for implementation of the habitat agenda was vital, for that agenda focused on such critical aspects as human livelihoods, basic needs, and poverty eradication. The international community should also give due attention to the implementation of the agenda by encouraging more official development assistance, technology transfer, capacity-building, enhanced market access, increased direct foreign investment in development countries, and action to resolve those countries' foreign indebtedness problems.

10. **The President** said that he took it that following the adoption of draft resolution E/2011/L.48, draft resolution E/2011/L.20 was being withdrawn by its sponsors.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **The President** said that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (d).

Public administration and development (E/2011/44) (agenda item 13 (g)) (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2011/L.23

13. **The President** invited the Council to adopt draft resolution E/2011/L.23, "Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its tenth session".

He informed the Council that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

14. *Draft resolution E/2011/L.23 was adopted.*

Draft decision E/2011/L.24

15. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft decision E/2011/L.24, "Venue and dates of and provisional agenda for the eleventh session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration". He informed the Council that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

16. *Draft decision E/2011/L.24 was adopted.*

17. **The President** said that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (g).

International cooperation in tax matters (E/2010/45 and E/2011/76) (agenda item 13 (h)) (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2011/L.26

18. **The President** said that before inviting the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2011/L.26, "Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters", which had been drafted after unofficial consultations on draft resolution E/2011/L.13, he would give the floor to the Secretary, who would make an oral statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

19. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council), speaking pursuant to rule 31 of the Council's Rules of Procedure, said that, under operative paragraphs 5 and 6 of draft resolution E/2011/L.26, the Council would request the Secretary-General to submit to it a report on the role and work of the Committee in promoting international cooperation in tax matters, including further options on strengthening the work of the Committee and its cooperation with concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional and subregional organizations; and would decide to hold a one-day meeting in 2012 in conjunction with the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to consider international cooperation in tax matters, including institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation.

20. The report of the Secretary-General and the one-day meeting in 2012 contemplated in operative paragraphs 5 and 6 represented an additional workload

that would entail additional expenditures of US\$79,800 in 2012, broken down as follows: \$74,800 under chapter 2 (General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs and conference management) for the translation and publication of the report (approximately 8,500 words) in the six official languages and for interpretation services, also in the six official languages, at the one-day meeting; and \$5,000 under chapter 29D (Office of Central Support Services) to cover the costs associated with conference support services.

21. If the Council adopted the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would endeavour to provide the required services within the resources for which provision was made in chapters 2 and 29D of the draft programme budget for the 2012-2013 biennium. In accordance with established procedure, the General Assembly would be informed whether the additional expenditure could be covered from the resources allocated in the draft programme budget for the 2012-2013 biennium, on the occasion of the presentation of the annual report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council, which would be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

22. **The President** said that if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution.

23. *Draft resolution E/2011/L.26 was adopted.*

24. **Mr. Suarez Salvia** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the adoption by consensus of the resolution on the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. It was disappointing, however, that there had been no concrete movement to fulfil the commitment made in the Monterrey Consensus and subsequently reaffirmed, to develop a more participatory approach to international decision-making and rule-setting. Accordingly, the Group of 77 and China reserved the right to revisit the position as the matter progressed.

25. Strengthening international cooperation in tax matters should ensure that the international community supported national efforts to enhance domestic public resources, while taking into account the need to enhance the fiscal capacity and policy space of developing countries. There should be a transparent,

impartial and multilateral approach for monitoring and assessing compliance with international standards on the part of all jurisdictions, onshore and offshore. The Committee of Experts undoubtedly played an important role, as it had developed useful tools and guides on cooperation on tax issues. The United Nations was the only true global forum for dialogue at the international level, the only one whose development agenda was not skewed in favour of the developed countries. The Group of 77 and China urged Member States to consider the conversion of the Committee of Experts into an intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, and stood ready to engage actively and constructively to ensure that the mandate given in the resolution was addressed successfully.

26. **The President** said that he took it that following the adoption of draft resolution E/2011/L.26, draft resolution E/2011/L.13 was being withdrawn by its sponsors.

27. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision E/2011/L.42

28. **The President** invited the Council to adopt draft decision E/2011/L.42, "Dates and draft agenda for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters". He informed the Council that the draft decision contained no programme budget implications.

29. *Draft decision E/2011/L.42 was adopted.*

30. **The President** said that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (h).

Cartography (E/2011/89 and E/2011/119) (agenda item 13 (k)) (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2011/L.53

31. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2011/L.53, "Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management", submitted by Mr. Koterec, Vice-President of the Council, after consultations on draft resolution E/2011/L.15. He then stated that he would give the floor to the Secretary, who would make a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution E/2011/L.53.

32. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council), speaking pursuant to rule 31 of the Council's Rules of

Procedure, said that, under operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution E/2011/L.53, the Council would decide to establish the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Management, in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to the resolution. Under those terms of reference, the Committee would meet once a year for not more than three days, and might hold, under exceptional circumstances, additional meetings as appropriate. If the Council were to adopt the draft resolution, the Secretariat had calculated that the services provided would be the same as those provided to other Council bodies of that kind. The Committee would comprise experts from all Member States, as well as experts from international organizations, as observers. All experts would cover their own travel expenses, and any additional expenditure for travel that might be required would be covered from existing resources under chapter 9 of the programme budget.

33. In addition, it was understood that the annual meeting of the Committee, at which interpretation services in the six official languages would be provided, would consist of a three-day session held in New York, during the "off season" (early January or August). Additional resources in the amount of \$83,500 per year would be required, including \$68,500 per year under chapter 2 (General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs and conference management) and \$15,000 per year under chapter 28D (Office of Central Support Services), for interpretation and meeting support services. However, those additional expenditures could be absorbed within existing resources under the respective chapters provided the meetings were held during the "off season". If a meeting had to be held at some other time, the Secretary-General would endeavour to ensure that interpretation services were provided. In the event that the costs could not be absorbed within existing resources, they would be covered from a trust fund that would be established to support the work of the Committee. In the event that annual meetings of the Committee should be held at a location other than New York, the host Government would be asked to assume all the associated costs. For additional meetings held under exceptional circumstances, neither interpretation nor documentation services would be provided.

34. With respect to the documents that would be made available to the Committee, the Secretariat proposed, in accordance with regular practice, to prepare a single pre-session document containing the

agenda and a post-session document (report to the Economic and Social Council), which would be translated into the six official languages. Documentation provided during sessions would be distributed in English via a dedicated Web site. Accordingly, the Secretariat estimated the additional resources required at \$78,100 per year under chapter 2, for the necessary documentation services. In view of the fact that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was currently considering the proposal of the Secretary-General on the draft programme budget for the 2012-2013 biennium, the Secretary-General would endeavour to ensure that documentation services were provided and would request additional support from extra-budgetary funds, specifically from the trust fund established to support the work of the Committee, to cover costs in excess of absorption capacity, subject to the level of resources authorized by the General Assembly for the 2012-2013 biennium .

35. In addition, the Secretariat had been informed that the Government of the Republic of Korea had agreed to host the first meeting of the Committee in October 2011 and to assume all the associated costs. If the Council adopted the draft resolution, there would thus be no programme-budget implications for 2010-2011 biennium. For needs arising during the 2012-2013 biennium and beyond, the Secretary-General would endeavour to ensure that funding was available for interpretation and documentation services, and might have to request financial support from the trust fund established expressly to support the work of the Committee, or to ask the host Government to assume all the costs associated with the meeting if it should be held at a location other than New York.

36. **The President** invited the Council to adopt draft resolution E/2011/L.53.

37. *Draft resolution E/2011/L.53 was adopted.*

38. **Mr. Suarez Salvia** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the adoption by consensus of resolution E/2011/L.53, in which the Council recognized the importance of integrating cartographic and statistical information, as well as spatial data, with a view to fostering location-based geospatial information, applications and services. The resolution also recalled the important role played by the United Nations in promoting international cooperation in that field. The Committee

established by the resolution would provide a useful platform for developing effective strategies on how to build and strengthen national capacities relating to geospatial information, and would be well placed to develop work plans and to promote common policies, mechanisms and standards, especially with respect to the interoperability and interchangeability of data and services. The Council would play a major role by providing a forum for exchanges of views and information, especially in the area of international cooperation.

39. **The President** asked whether, following the adoption of draft resolution E/2011/L.53, he might take it that draft resolution E/2011/L.15 had been withdrawn by its sponsors.

40. *It was so decided.*

Transport of dangerous goods (E/2011/91) (agenda item 13 (m)) (*continued*)

Draft resolution E/2011/L.22

41. **The President** invited the Council to adopt draft resolution E/2011/L.22, "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals". He informed the Council that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

42. *Draft resolution E/2011/L.22 was adopted.*

43. **The President** said that the Council had completed its consideration of agenda item 13 (m).

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.