



Economic and Social Council

Provisional

24 December 2012

Original: English

Substantive session of 2012

General segment

Provisional summary record of the 45th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 25 July 2012, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. de Alba (Vice-President) (Mexico)

Contents

Economic and environmental questions

- (a) Sustainable development
- (c) Statistics
- (d) Human settlements
- (e) Environment
- (f) Population and development
- (g) Public administration and development
- (h) International cooperation in tax matters
- (i) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions
- (j) Cartography

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 Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

12-43704 (E)



Please recycle A small graphic of a recycling symbol, consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.



In the absence of Mr. Koterec (Slovakia), Mr. de Alba (Mexico), Vice-President, took the Chair.

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

Economic and environmental questions (E/2012/64-A/67/82)

- (a) Sustainable development (E/2012/33)**
- (c) Statistics (E/2010/24)**
- (d) Human settlements (E/2012/65 and E/2012/L.13)**
- (e) Environment (A/67/25)**
- (f) Population and development (E/2012/25)**
- (g) Public administration and development (E/2012/44 and E/2012/L.23)**
- (h) International cooperation in tax matters (E/2011/45, E/2012/8, E/2012/L.19 and L.20)**
- (i) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions**
- (j) Cartography (E/2011/46)**

1. **Ms. Martinez** (Director, New York Office, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2012/65), said that rapid urbanization meant that adequate infrastructure and effective urban planning were needed to make cities socially inclusive, economically prosperous and energy efficient, in order to generate sustainable development outcomes for all. Disaster response plans, planned city enlargements and various policy, legislative and regulatory measures were needed to maximize the sustainability and economic potential of urban life.

2. Following the adoption of its Governing Council resolution 23/17 on sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure, UN-Habitat had strengthened its coordination with other United Nations agencies and had worked to have sustainable urban development included in the contributions to the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Following its review of implementation of local Agenda 21, UN-Habitat had proposed eight sustainable urban development targets for consideration: national urban policies; urban planning and design; slum prevention

and improvement; urban space; urban ecology; water, sanitation and waste management; urban energy and mobility; and urban job creation.

3. UN-Habitat had continued working on humanitarian issues in collaboration with partners of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Post-War and Disaster Reconstruction and Rehabilitation under the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The neighbourhood approach to reconstruction, which it had implemented on a trial basis in Haiti, was being adopted by other United Nations agencies, including the International Organization for Migration, and non-governmental organizations.

4. That approach had shown how the human settlements perspective could hasten the transition from relief to development. UN-Habitat had also led rebuilding and neighbourhood improvement projects in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Somalia, Sri Lanka and the Sudan, and continued to strengthen gender-mainstreaming under the United Nations system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women and to engage urban youth through events such as the Youth 21 Forum, held jointly with the United Nations Development Programme in Nairobi in 2012.

5. With regard to cities and climate change, the Global Report on Human Settlements 2011: Cities and Climate Change, published by UN-Habitat, had suggested ways in which cities and towns that had not yet adopted climate-change policies could begin to do so. UN-Habitat had continued to cooperate with United Nations environmental agencies in promoting dialogue and pilot activities to reduce climate-change impacts on the urban poor, and had provided substantive support to regional ministerial conferences on housing and development in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. UN-Habitat had maintained its strategic partnerships with regional banks on water and sanitation initiatives and continued to provide capacity-building and technical advisory services to Governments and other partners in a number of areas, including land and governance, urban planning and design, urban economy, urban basic services, housing and upgrading of slums, and risk reduction and rehabilitation.

7. Considering the unprecedented social, political, economic and environmental changes stemming from urbanization, concerted action by the global

community was required. Governments should establish national urban policies that addressed urban development needs through improved urban planning and design. They should also consider the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2012/65) as they prepared for the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), scheduled for 2015.

8. **Mr. Chenje** (Officer-in-Charge, New York Office, United Nations Environment Programme), introducing the report of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the work of its twelfth special session (A/67/25), said that, at its session held from 20 to 22 February 2012, the Governing Council had adopted a ministerial statement that acknowledged the progress achieved by UNEP over the past 40 years, including the establishment of major multilateral agreements on the environment, development of environmental laws and policies, and promotion of environmental issues at all levels.

9. The Governing Council had recalled its commitment to strengthen and upgrade UNEP as the environmental authority that set the global environmental agenda; promoted the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system; and served as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. The Governing Council had identified the green economy, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. It had also invited Governments to support the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, and welcomed the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes.

10. **Ms. Cortez** (Secretary of the Committee for Development Policy), introducing the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session (E/2012/33), said that, at its session held from 12 to 16 March 2012, the Committee had noted that the counter-cyclical macroeconomic policies necessary to stimulate productive employment could only be instituted through international cooperation. The Committee had developed a research strategy to analyse and propose alternative development strategies

that could contribute to a sustained improvement in human well-being.

11. Following the 2012 triennial review of the list of least developed countries, the Committee had recommended that the Republic of South Sudan should be added to the list, subject to its agreement, and that Tuvalu and Vanuatu should be graduated from the least developed category, despite the reservations expressed by the Government of Tuvalu. Angola and Kiribati had been found to be eligible for graduation for the first time and should be considered for graduation at the 2015 triennial review. The Committee had taken note of continued positive developments in Cape Verde and the Maldives, which had already graduated, and Samoa, which would be graduating in 2014.

12. Nonetheless, the Committee had reiterated its concern that the General Assembly had not yet taken note of its 2009 recommendation to graduate Equatorial Guinea, and that such prolonged inaction could be prejudicial to the least developed country category as a whole. It had put forward a series of recommendations for improving and strengthening current procedures and measures, many of which had been included in the report of the ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for countries graduating from the least developed country category, which would be considered by the General Assembly at its 67th session.

13. **Mr. Telavi** (Observer for Tuvalu) said that, as Prime Minister of Tuvalu, he had felt compelled to appear before the Council personally to protest the decision to graduate his country from least developed country status. The change in tone in the characterization by the Committee on Development Policy of the handicaps that impeded his country's economic development was unjustified. The extreme smallness of Tuvalu, the limitations of its productive base, the peculiarities of its income sources, and the acute vulnerability of its islands had been acknowledged in the Committee's 2009 report. However, in the 2012 report, the Committee had subtly softened the language used to describe those challenges. "Extreme smallness" had been replaced by "a very small population" in the 2012 report, and while Tuvalu had "almost negligible" income from productive sectors and "lacked productive activities" in 2009, it only had "limited" resources in 2012. While the 2009 report had described Tuvalu's revenue sources as "volatile" and had "questioned their sustainability",

the 2012 report only referred to “a small set of income sources”, which were “unlikely to be affected by graduation.”

14. The Council should not be misled by the report. The principle of “equal treatment” should not be applied blindly to countries with special conditions. A “one-size-fits-all” approach to least developed country status was not consistent with the United Nations principle of differentiation in international cooperation. He urged the Council to defer consideration of Tuvalu’s graduation until after it had considered, in 2013, the views of the Committee for Development Policy on how to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States more effectively, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/44.

15. **Ms. Zoupaniotis** (Observer for Cyprus), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union was fully committed the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. It welcomed General Assembly resolution 65/234 to extend the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

16. The European Union was committed to investing in the health, education and skills of young people. Access to and information on sexual and reproductive health was essential for achieving the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action. It was especially important for men and boys to be aware of their responsibilities. She welcomed the work on youth and adolescents undertaken by the Commission on Population and Development in that regard.

17. Domestic revenue mobilization had been stressed as a priority in the Busan Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, and there was an increasing focus on institution-building, accountability, development financing and policy ownership as ways of reducing reliance on development assistance. The European Union agreed

with the conclusion of the report on the Secretary-General on the role and work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2012/8) that the United Nations was well-placed to continue making a contribution in the area of international tax cooperation. It also recognized the need to ensure that the Committee effectively deployed funding through existing mechanisms, including the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

18. **Ms. Bethel** (Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that, despite the commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus for the development of a more democratic, inclusive and participatory approach to international decision-making and norm-setting, progress had been slow in the area of international cooperation in tax matters. International tax cooperation was, however, a central aspect of the modern global economy and an important priority for the member States of CARICOM. She reaffirmed the primary role of the United Nations in addressing matters related to international tax cooperation, in view of its universality and legitimacy.

19. The lack of a truly global all-inclusive norm-setting body for international tax cooperation continued to constitute a fundamental gap in that area, as acknowledged by the Secretary-General in his report on the role and work of the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. International tax cooperation had far-reaching consequences for developing countries, which needed not only to be offered a full seat at the table in any negotiations at the intergovernmental level, but also to be given a full voice.

20. The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters had done useful work, notably with regard to the updated United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries. That and other achievements of the Committee should not merely be perfunctorily noted, but should be supported and enhanced. CARICOM fully supported the call for the conversion of the Committee into an intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, which would address the need for greater participation by developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States, in the formulation of international tax cooperation norms, as well as the Committee’s inadequate budgetary

resources. The upgraded body would continue to be expert in nature, and function in a manner similar to that of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

21. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that her Government commended the progress made in collating crime statistics, as reflected in the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session (E/2012/24). It welcomed the Commission's request that the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should prepare a report on, *inter alia*, the feasibility of developing an international classification on crime for statistical purposes, which would help to strengthen efforts to combat organized crime. It also welcomed the increasing calls for the use of non-economic indicators to measure development, as illustrated by the recent decision by the Statistical Commission on the use of environmental-economic accounting and the definition of cross-cutting issues and indicators for setting sustainable development goals proposed in the Rio+20 outcome document.

22. Her delegation also noted with interest the invitation made to the General Assembly to examine the possibility of developing a system-wide strategy for the environment and the actions arising from the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, as outlined in the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its twelfth special session (A/67/25). In that context, she hoped that the process of defining a negotiating mandate for UNEP for consideration by the General Assembly would be concluded swiftly.

23. **Mr. Escalona Ojeda** (Observer for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, 20 years after the Earth Summit, social and environmental problems had worsened. The United Nations system should therefore not become a mechanism that promoted developed countries' arguments of "political realism". Those countries had failed to change their development model and consumption and production patterns, which were based on a perverse and unjust distribution of social wealth that would eventually destroy the environment and humanity. The United Nations system should not continue to tolerate speculation on markets concerning food and other basic commodities, as such behaviour exacerbated hunger and poverty.

24. The United Nations system should ensure the correct implementation of agreements on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities and States' different viewpoints and development models. Sovereign States must be able to determine, within an international consensus and in accordance with the principle of self-determination, which development model best suited their specific situation, particularly in the light of the challenges to sustainable development posed by the current trends in global population growth.

25. If Governments continued to pursue the current patterns of consumption and production and the prevailing urban development policies, the impact on ecosystems and humanity would be very negative. Since 2009, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had undertaken various policies to ensure justice, equality, democracy and respect for human rights, by eliminating speculation on homes and land in order to create safer, healthier, more habitable, equitable, sustainable and productive settlements. Between 1999 and 2010, some 50,000 houses had been built on average per year by the public and private sectors in the country. In 2011, as a result of the damage caused by natural disasters, the Government had implemented a new housing programme, with a budget of 700 million USD, in an effort to overcome the housing shortage in six years. It had also passed a number of other laws to regulate housing services, home ownership and the designation of land for housing purposes, to ensure that all Venezuelans lived in decent houses by 2019.

26. The global housing shortage must be a priority for the United Nations. In that connection, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, such as UN-Habitat, should have stable, adequate and predictable financial resources. His delegation had, therefore, been surprised that the report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda contained no recommendations on the financing of those programmes and agencies.

27. **Ms. Melnikovich** (Belarus) said that, in the aftermath of Rio+20, the international community must act urgently to establish an effective energy agenda making green technologies more broadly available to all countries. Belarus attached particular importance to the entry into force of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and the elaboration of a comprehensive, universal, new climate agreement.

Countries working to reduce anthropogenic emissions needed multilateral assistance. Belarus had succeeded in slowing its demographic decline by stabilizing the birth rate. Under a national demographic programme for the period from 2011 through 2015, the State was strengthening social and economic support for families with children and taking measures to care for mothers and children, improve reproductive health, increase life expectancy and strengthen the moral foundations of the family.

28. Her delegation welcomed the successful completion of the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development, which had focused on adolescents and youth, as well as the decision to convoke a special session of the General Assembly on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014.

29. **Ms. Arias Orozco** (El Salvador) said that eradicating poverty and promoting full and productive employment and social protection were mutually reinforcing. Creating more job opportunities and increasing wages for all, but particularly for young people, women and men living in poverty, were therefore of the utmost importance. The international community must be more committed to advancing the sustainable development agenda through internationally agreed development goals. Her Government was concerned at the magnitude and severity of the adverse effects of climate change, which weakened developing countries' efforts to achieve sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals. It was therefore important to strengthen international environmental governance in order to promote the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental considerations of sustainable development and coordination with the United Nations system.

30. A reliable statistical basis was necessary for the formulation of policies and assessment of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Her Government therefore supported the plan of action and efforts to implement the system of national accounts, which would help to strengthen national capacities. It also welcomed the adoption of resolution E/2012/L.20 on international cooperation in tax matters, as well as the three draft decisions adopted by the Commission on Population and Development, particularly the decision entitled "Actions in follow-up to the recommendations of the International

Conference on Population and Development" (E/CN.9/2012/L.4).

31. Lastly, her Government had withdrawn all of its reservations about the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. It welcomed the resolution on adolescents and youth adopted by the Commission, especially the inclusion of paragraphs that clarified the different classifications and definitions of age groups in national legislation; recognition of the contributions of adolescents and young migrants and their potential to build social, economic and cultural bridges of cooperation and understanding across societies; reference to the social and political participation of adolescents and young people and the importance of volunteer groups; and recognition that in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning.

32. **Mr. Alimov** (Russian Federation) said that the decisions made at Rio+20 to enhance the institutional frameworks for sustainable development were closely linked and mutually reinforcing. Member States should reconfirm their commitment to strengthening the Economic and Social Council as the primary coordinating body ensuring the integration of the three aspects of sustainable development. That should form the basis of consultations to determine the status and organizational parameters of the new high level political forum to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development. Those negotiations should also take into account the discussions held as part of the upcoming review of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.

33. His Government welcomed the commitment made in Rio+20 to strengthen the role of the United Nations Environmental Programme as the central body coordinating international environmental activity, which should help in shaping the global environmental agenda and advancing the environmental aspect of sustainable development.

34. While the work of the Commission on Population and Development was generally commendable, States' differing interpretations of the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development must be noted. The outcome resolution that had been adopted did not reflect a complete consensus, as many delegations had expressed

reservations about the resolution, including the Russian Federation, which had expressed concerns about evidence-based comprehensive education on human sexuality. Nonetheless, States had the sovereign right to implement the resolution in accordance with their demographic policy and their national, religious, ethical and cultural values.

35. **Mr. Nakonechnyi** (Ukraine) said that progress to eradicate poverty had been mixed, varying by region and country. Several Millennium Development Goals, including eradicating hunger, combating communicable diseases and ensuring environmental sustainability, were at risk. Persistent challenges threatening the most vulnerable countries, especially African countries, called for an urgent response. Middle-income countries faced serious constraints in achieving sustainable development and needed support from the international community.

36. The agreement at Rio+20 on a green economy was of particular importance. The delegation of Ukraine welcomed the Green Industry Platform launched in the margins of Rio+20, whose aim was to promote industry that did not compromise social, economic and ecosystem health.

37. The agreement on a more coherent institutional framework for United Nations environmental activities through strengthening the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme should culminate in the establishment of a world environment organization under United Nations auspices. A national round table on follow-up to Rio+20 had been held in Ukraine with government officials and representatives of civil society and academia. The immediate priorities identified included revitalization of the national sustainable development council, establishment of an inter-agency working group on bringing national policies and strategies into line with the new green approach of the United Nations, and elaboration of Ukraine's sustainable development concept.

38. The Government of Ukraine had developed a national plan of action on the environment for 2011 through 2015 that served as a policy framework for addressing environmental challenges. A national programme on domestic production development had also been adopted in 2011 to serve as a policy tool for sustainable production based on green economy principles.

39. **Mr. de Almeida Carneiro Enge** (Brazil) said that an effective and efficient tax system and fiscal administration was necessary to mobilize sufficient resources for financing for development. International cooperation in tax matters was necessary to control transboundary tax evasion, implement international standards on transparency and exchange of information, assist developing countries with capacity-building and address tax competition and its distorting effects.

40. Developing countries needed technical assistance in tax matters, in order to respond to complex issues such as transfer pricing and the treatment of income from transboundary electronic commerce. To discuss those issues and to fulfil the objectives of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, a truly global forum to discuss international tax norms was needed. Brazil supported the conversion of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters into an intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the provision of more regular and predictable resources for its functioning.

41. **Ms. Bunge** (Argentina) said that sustainable development must be addressed by balancing the considerations of economic growth, social development and environmental protection. Economic growth and development must be inclusive, sustained and sustainable, in order to reduce inequality in the distribution of employment and promote decent work, which her Government had set for itself as an additional millennium goal. Although the report on the fourteenth session of the Committee for Development Policy referred to the indicators used to identify low-income countries, it was also important to consider the situation of middle-income countries, which constituted a separate group within the broader category of developing countries.

42. Despite showing different levels of socio-economic development, middle-income countries were all characterized by unequal income distribution, which led to economic and social distortions. Maternal and infant mortality rates, poverty levels, job insecurity and restricted access to education and sanitation were all aspects of poverty that were not necessarily reflected in an increase in a country's per capita income. It was therefore necessary to rethink the current classification criteria in order to better assess countries' development and cooperation requirements.

43. The prevailing model of growth, production technologies and unsustainable consumption and production patterns highlighted the responsibility of developed countries, which had used natural resources without restrictions for decades. Consideration of those issues should be framed by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, in order to give other countries the opportunity to take advantage of those resources and thus achieve sustainable development.

44. Her Government considered the linking of humanitarian questions to security issues, as the report of the Committee for Development Policy did, to be a negative step. Nonetheless, it welcomed the efforts made to define that complex and abstract concept. No single development model could be applied to all countries and States were within their rights to implement the development model that corresponded best to their needs and priorities. Any global transformative development agenda must address countries' different levels of development and respect national policies.

45. **Mr. Wang Qun** (China) said that, at a time of economic difficulties, Rio+20 had sent a positive and clear message about the revitalization of international cooperation for sustainable development, producing an outcome document that was comprehensive and largely balanced. The Conference had reiterated the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities", thus safeguarding the basis of international development cooperation. As it moved forward, the international community should focus on identifying multiple sets of flexible, non-mandatory targets to serve as references for States in elaborating their national development strategies.

46. The high level political forum on sustainable development should cover sustainable development's three pillars of economic growth, social progress and environmental protection, and give developing countries greater decision-making power. The forum should focus on financial assistance, technology transfer and capacity-building. National conditions must be considered in the transition towards a green economy, and the indiscriminate application of rigid standards and targets should be avoided. The green economy should contribute to poverty eradication first and foremost, and the international community should guard against green protectionism.

47. In implementing the outcome of Rio+20, China would promote low-carbon development, focus on energy efficiency and emissions reduction, and develop resource-efficient and environmentally friendly patterns of production and consumption.

48. **Mr. Ruiz Diaz** (Chile) said that human life was constitutionally protected in his country from the moment of conception. Accordingly, the references to abortion in resolution 2012/1 on adolescents and youth (adopted by the Commission on Population and Development and contained in the report on the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development (E/2012/25), should not be understood or interpreted as an acceptance of abortion by his Government or as contradictory to Chilean legislation on that matter.

Sustainable development

49. **The President** said that draft resolution E/2012/L.25, entitled "Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session", would be considered by the Council at a subsequent meeting.

Statistics

50. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fourth session of the Commission", contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session (E/2012/24).

51. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Human settlements

52. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution entitled "Human settlements", contained in document E/2012/L.13 and submitted by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

53. **Mr. Djacta** (Observer for Algeria), introducing the draft resolution, said that the Group of 77 and China acknowledged the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) towards achieving the goal of sustainable urban development and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Although progress had been made to improve the lives of slum dwellers, it had not been sufficient to counter the increase in the number of slums, as recent statistics

had shown that there were nearly one billion slum dwellers around the world. The third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) would provide an opportunity to address the new challenges of information and communications technology and urbanization.

54. **The President** said that, as informal consultations on the draft resolution were still ongoing, the Council would consider the draft resolution at a subsequent meeting.

Environment

55. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session (A/67/25) and suggested that the Council should take note of it.

56. *It was so decided.*

Population and development

57. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Special session of the General Assembly on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fifth session (E/2012/25).

58. **Ms. Sharma** (Secretariat) said that, under the terms of the draft decision and in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 65/234, the modalities of the special session would only be decided at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Therefore, in the absence of modalities for meetings and documentation of the special session, it was not yet possible to determine the conference servicing requirements. As soon as specific decisions on the format, scope and modalities were determined, the matter would be reported to the General Assembly in accordance with rule 153 of its rules of procedure. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft decision, the Secretary-General would submit details of financial implications, if applicable, in accordance with the established procedures once the modalities of the meeting were determined.

59. *The draft decision was adopted.*

60. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Timing of the

consideration of the report on world demographic trends”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fifth session (E/2012/25).

61. *The draft decision was adopted.*

62. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fifth session and provisional agenda for its forty-sixth session”, contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fifth session (E/2012/25).

63. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Public administration and development

64. **The President** drew attention to the draft resolution entitled “Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eleventh session”, submitted by him on the basis of informal consultations. The Council would take action on that draft resolution at a subsequent meeting.

International cooperation in tax matters

65. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the role and work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2011/8), which had been considered by the Council at its special meeting on tax matters held on 15 March 2012; the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its seventh session (E/2011/45); a draft decision entitled “Dates and draft agenda for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters”, contained in document E/2012/L.19 and submitted by him on the basis of informal consultations; and a draft resolution entitled “Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters”, submitted by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and contained in document E/2012/L.20.

66. **Mr. Djacta** (Observer for Algeria), introducing the draft resolution, said that the text sought to build on Council resolution 2011/23 and to strengthen international cooperation through enhanced dialogue.

67. **The President** said that the Council would take action on both the draft decision and the draft resolution at a subsequent meeting.

Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

68. **The President** said that no advance documentation had been submitted under agenda item 13 (i) and that no draft proposal was before the Council.

Cartography

69. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision entitled “Report of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its first session and provisional agenda and dates for the second session of the Committee” contained in chapter I, section A, of the report of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its first session (E/2011/46).

70. *The draft decision was adopted.*

71. **The President** said that the report of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on the work of its second session, the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-seventh session, and the report of the tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, submitted to the Council under that agenda item, would be available for consideration at a later date, because they concerned meetings that would take place after the conclusion of the Council’s 2012 substantive session.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.