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Chair: Mr. Sparber (Vice-Chair) (Liechtenstein)

Contents

Agenda item 27: Social development (*continued*)(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)Agenda item 103. Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*)Agenda item 28: Advancement of women (*continued*)(a) Advancement of women (*continued*)Agenda item 65: Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*)(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*)Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children (*continued*)

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In the absence of Mr. Mac-Donald (Suriname), Mr. Sparber (Liechtenstein), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 27: Social development (continued)

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (continued) (A/C.3/67/L.8 and L.10)

Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.8: Mainstreaming of volunteering for the next decade

1. **Ms. Ribeiro** (Brazil), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.8 also on behalf of Japan, said that the draft resolution aimed to enhance awareness of the contribution of volunteerism, as well as to increase the scope, effectiveness and funding of volunteer efforts and to encourage volunteerism among all population segments.

2. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that El Salvador had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.10: Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond

3. **Ms. Maduhu** (United Republic of Tanzania) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.10 also on behalf of the Philippines.

4. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that El Salvador and Panama had joined the sponsors.

Agenda item 103: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/C.3/67/L.3-L.7, L.15 and L.16)

Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.15: Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

5. **Mr. Mogini** (Italy), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.15, said that it was essentially similar to the previous year's resolution. Most changes involved streamlining and updating to reflect recent developments. He drew particular attention to two new preambular paragraphs — one on strengthening international cooperation to combat trafficking in cultural property and the other on strengthening

international cooperation and capacity-building to combat wildlife trafficking — as well as to a new operative paragraph encouraging Member States to give appropriate consideration to the linkages between crime prevention and development.

6. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the Czech Republic, Haiti, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Panama and San Marino had also joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.15.

Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.16: Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

7. **Ms. Velichko** (Belarus), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.16, said that the draft resolution sought to improve coordination among States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society and the private sector on enforcement of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as to encourage universal ratification. In view of the upcoming 2013 appraisal of progress on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, it called for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. She invited Member States to join in sponsoring the draft resolution and to participate in further consultations with a view to achieving an effective consensus document.

8. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya and the Philippines had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.3: Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

9. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.3, which had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

10. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of

procedure of the General Assembly, said that, because the resources required to implement the draft resolution would be reviewed in the context of the budget for the biennium 2014-2015, its adoption would not entail any additional appropriation under the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.3 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.4: Promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families

12. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.4. The draft decision had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and contained no programme budget implications.

13. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador) said that El Salvador had been one of the sponsors of the draft resolution in Vienna and would join in its adoption by consensus. However, his delegation wished to point out three important omissions. First, the draft resolution made no mention of the need for fuller ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Second, it failed to recognize explicitly the major contribution of civil society organizations to protecting migrants against violence. Third, because it had been drafted prior to the Rio+20 Conference, it did not reflect paragraph 157 of the outcome document (A/CONF.216/L.1), which called upon States to avoid approaches that might aggravate the vulnerability of migrants.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.4 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.5: Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, particularly in the areas related to the United Nations system-wide approach to fighting transnational organized crime and drug trafficking

15. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.5. It had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and contained no programme budget implications.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.5 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.6: United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems

17. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.6, which had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

18. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that paragraphs 6 and 7 would be implemented subject to the availability of the necessary extrabudgetary resources: \$262,200 for the advisory services and technical assistance requested in paragraph 6 and \$492,000 for the dissemination-related activities requested in paragraph 7. The report requested of the Secretary-General in paragraph 9 would not entail additional spending because it would be part of another document already required under existing reporting obligations.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.6 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.7: Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

20. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.7, which had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

21. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that implementing paragraphs 8 to 10 would entail \$466,900 in additional extrabudgetary resources; paragraph 11 would require \$172,600, and paragraph 15 would involve \$657,700. Should the above extraordinary resources not be provided, the activities would not take place.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.7 was adopted.*

Agenda item 28: Advancement of women (continued)

(b) Advancement of women (continued)
(A/C.3/67/L.2)

Draft decision A/C.3/67/L.2: Ending female genital mutilation

23. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft decision A/C.3/67/L.2. The draft decision had been recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and contained no programme budget implications.

24. *Draft decision A/C.3/67/L.2 was adopted.*

Agenda item 65: Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*)

(a) **Promotion and protection of the rights of children** (*continued*) (A/67/41, A/65/225, A/65/230, A/65/256 and A/65/291)

(b) **Follow-up to the special session on children** (*continued*) (A/65/229)

25. **Mr. Yahiaoui** (Algeria) said that African children were more likely to suffer from malnutrition, pandemic illness, illiteracy, poverty and the effects of armed conflict than any others. Despite regional efforts, international assistance was both necessary and urgent. On the national level, as a party to the principal international and regional children's rights instruments, Algeria had harmonized its national legislation accordingly, including by amending the Algerian Nationality Code to allow transmission of citizenship through the mother. Furthermore, its penal code set tough penalties for the abandonment, sexual abuse, rape or prostitution of children.

26. The Government was implementing a national strategy on the family, a national plan for children and, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a national strategy to combat violence against children. Civil society organizations also played an active role in combating such violence. Algeria's investment in infrastructure, as well as in vaccination, disease prevention and birth control programmes, had cut infant mortality by almost one third. As a result of its investment in education, the 2012-2013 school attendance rate of 98 per cent was on a par with that of some developed countries.

27. **Mr. Bassirou Sene** (Senegal) said that his country had recently signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Children on a communications procedure. It was redoubling its efforts to ensure food security for all and had implemented an expanded vaccination programme, as

well as a programme to provide comprehensive treatment of childhood diseases. Attention should focus on the ongoing serious violations of the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict by State and non-State armed groups. That deplorable practice was facilitated by the precarious situation of families, poverty and the lack of basic necessities, including food.

28. Senegal's national HIV/AIDS programme included measures to reduce early school dropout, illness and undernutrition among orphans and vulnerable children. It was also implementing a programme to provide education, health care and food for poor children ages 0 to 6, which had been praised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a universal model.

29. **Ms. Hassan** (Djibouti) said that chronic drought and the concomitant worsening of poverty in her country affected access to food, water, sanitation, health and education. In 2011, 75 per cent of Djibouti children had been malnourished. Children enjoyed fewer rights in rural areas, where, for example, birth registration and girls' enrolment lagged, and girls were often withdrawn from school and married at an early age for financial reasons. Her country had stepped up its efforts to combat female genital mutilation even in remote rural areas. The penal code and the criminal procedure code had been amended to facilitate prosecution for the crime, and organizations working to combat female genital mutilation were henceforth permitted to bring civil action on behalf of victims.

30. Djibouti had made school mandatory until age 16 and had developed a comprehensive national policy on early childhood education. Its day-care programme, targeting primarily rural and disadvantaged urban children, had been expanded. Material assistance was provided for orphans and vulnerable children who were in school, and vocational training was available to those who were not.

31. **Mr. Freeman** (Israel) said that the Israel would soon be implementing a law establishing free compulsory education for children aged 3 to 18. Its ambitious National Programme for Children and Youth at Risk provided community-based early childhood and preventive services. The non-governmental organization ELEM ran programmes for troubled children in all sectors of society, including Israeli

Arabs, ultra-orthodox Jews and immigrants. Another non-governmental organization (NGO), the National Council for the Child, offered counselling and assistance for young victims of crime.

32. Israel greatly appreciated the efforts by the United Nations to improve life for children. She expressed satisfaction, in particular, with the work carried out by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict as well as the Special Representative on violence against children and shared the concerns expressed in the latter's report (A/67/230), particularly with regard to harmful traditional practices. Too many countries still lacked legislation that prohibited such practices.

33. Israel's agency for international development cooperation, MASHAV, had trained hundreds of thousands of teachers and students all over the world in areas as diverse as entrepreneurship and medicine. The Israeli NGO Save a Child's Heart provided cardiac surgery for poor children from developing countries and had recently been granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in recognition of its work. Lastly, Israel was looking forward to strengthening its ties with UNICEF as a first-time member of its Executive Board beginning in 2013.

34. **Ms. Velichko** (Belarus) said that the rights of children in her country were protected under a national children's rights law and were being strengthened by the implementation of a 2012-2016 national action plan to improve the situation of children and protect their rights. Belarus had already met the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for primary education and child mortality and was on track to meet the maternal health goal. In the area of children's education, it had instituted a comprehensive education code in 2011.

35. The adult literacy rate was 99.8 per cent, and with 95 per cent of children aged 3 to 5 in school, her country had the world's highest pre-school enrolment rate. The presidential decree on supplementary measures for affording State protection to children in dysfunctional families significantly reduced the risk of such children engaging in criminal behaviour or using drugs or alcohol.

36. UNICEF was implementing 10 technical assistance projects in Belarus to promote the rights of children, and 21 cities had joined the UNICEF Child-Friendly Cities Initiative. Her country would like to see

the Fund expand the thematic scope of its projects in line with Belarusian national priorities and step up efforts to attract donor resources for the implementation of the 2011-2015 country programme. Furthermore, UNICEF should be more systematic in promoting the rights of the most vulnerable categories of children and should take a more active role in campaigns to prevent social degradation among children and young people.

37. **Ms. Ortigosa** (Uruguay) said that her delegation applauded the decision to focus the 2012 draft resolution on the rights of the child on the rights of indigenous children, which were of fundamental importance in her region. Uruguayan law granted children and adolescents all human rights in accordance with their age and maturity. Driven by the conviction that children's rights should influence all spheres of government action, Uruguay was working hard to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Her delegation fully supported the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative on violence against children as well as the renewal of the latter's mandate with sufficient resources for carrying out her activities.

38. Uruguay took a cross-cutting approach to the MDGs, on which it had achieved significant progress. However, despite a focus on alleviating child poverty, it had thus far been able to reduce by only 10 per cent the 60 per cent record high child poverty rate reached during the recent Uruguayan financial crisis. The sexual exploitation of children was also area of considerable concern. Effective institutional coordination, including with civil society organizations, would be needed to combat the contributing factors: poverty, the phenomenon of street children, child labour, dropping out of school and family violence.

39. **Ms. Ojiambo** (Kenya) said that, during the recent drought in the Horn of Africa, malnutrition had been among the biggest contributors to child mortality. Her delegation was grateful that the lessons learnt in that region were informing the international response to the impending crisis in the Sahel.

40. Kenya was expanding its health facilities in order to be able to maintain the advances achieved in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)

of HIV/AIDS. Because a mother's ill health affected her child's health, the needs of both must be addressed to reduce the chances of children dying from preventable causes. Accordingly, she urged Member States to strongly support efforts to end obstetric fistula and eliminate female genital mutilation, including the two draft resolutions being considered on those topics.

41. Her Government was expanding health facilities and with many partners in campaigns to reduce the number of HIV/AIDS cases and malaria and tuberculosis transmission under the PMTCT programmes. That fight must be sustained in countries where prevalence was high, and it was absolutely essential that PMTCT should go hand in hand with comprehensive pediatric care.

42. During the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, it was important to ensure that very clear targets were set with respect to child poverty, health and education. Education was key, because educated children would most likely discard harmful practices, plan and take care of their families and protect themselves from violence. Lastly, she stressed that issues relating to social injustice, lack of equality and exclusion were at the root of unrest all over the world and must be addressed through good governance and the building of effective institutions and infrastructure.

43. **Mr. Janjua** (Pakistan) said that, in addition to having ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its first two Optional Protocols, his country was a party to the core International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions and to the Convention on Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. It had a comprehensive national plan of action for children and had established child welfare and development commissions at the national, provincial and district levels.

44. Pakistan was striving to eliminate child labour and had made progress towards achieving the MDGs regarding primary education and under-5 mortality. Independently or in partnership with United Nations agencies and civil society organizations, it had set up rehabilitation centres for child labourers, street children and juvenile offenders, had introduced social protection schemes, formal education and pre-vocational training for children with disabilities, had established children's complaint desks in the offices of

the federal and provincial ombudsmen, and had set up a child protection management information system.

45. **Mrs. Redman** (Suriname) said that her country had recently acceded to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It was implementing a 2009-2014 action plan for children and had established a presidential task force to coordinate and monitor the implementation of child and youth policy. A victim's care bureau oversaw shelter and counselling for child victims of sexual abuse; and judges, lawyers, prosecutors and social workers were given training in children's rights.

46. With regard to education, the Government was working to ensure that every child had access to quality education, and it had recently abolished the minimal school fee at the primary school level. Specific measures were in place to educate children on healthy lifestyles and the importance of sports.

47. **Mrs. Chilenje Nkhoma** (Malawi) said that, as a State party, Malawi had sought to bring its legislation, policy and practice in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. It was also working with the South African Development Community to implement the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children. Its achievements included community-based child care centres, incentives for girls' education, a child parliament, bursary provisions for orphans and other vulnerable children, social protection for poor families and child-headed households, widely available nutrition and HIV services for children, and immunization of all newborn babies.

48. As a result of its efforts, Malawi had been able to reduce infant and child mortality by almost 60 per cent between 1990 and 2010. Some of its successes were aided by beneficial partnerships, such as one with UNICEF that had led to the use of mobile phones to transmit nutrition and child growth data. Another UNICEF partnership had been instrumental in consultations with civil society organizations and public- and private-sector entities working on children's issues.

49. **Mr. Kim Chan** (Republic of Korea) urged Member States to take immediate punitive and preventive action to reduce the growing number of child victims of violence and sexual exploitation. He also encouraged thematic collaboration among special

procedures mandate-holders and special representatives of the Secretary-General to identify and mobilize support for more effective and efficient ways of protecting children's rights.

50. His country had taken steps to protect Korean children by toughening the punishment for child sexual abuse and abolishing the statute of limitations for the sexual exploitation of girls under age 13. Education was compulsory from kindergarten through secondary school; and under the Refugee Act, which would enter into force in July 2013, refugee children under 18 would enjoy the same right to education as Korean nationals.

51. **Mr. Lee Sang Min** (Republic of Korea), speaking as a youth delegate, said that he was pleased that his Government had strengthened laws and established a comprehensive plan to prevent the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, as well as violence against them at school. A national children's congress was held annually to provide Korean children with an opportunity to debate issues affecting them and present an outcome resolution to the Government.

52. **Mr. Daham** (Iraq) said that the new Government had taken appropriate legislative and executive measures to counter the poverty, illness and malnutrition prevalent among children under the previous regime. Legislative changes included a law against human trafficking and an easing of requirements for transmitting Iraqi nationality. In addition, it had built schools, improved the quality of education, provided more children's programming on television and conducted an awareness-raising campaign on children's issues.

53. At the international level, his country had ratified the first two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and had completed its periodic report under the Convention, as well as its first report under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Iraq thanked the States that had provided technical assistance and drew attention to its continuing need for support.

54. **Mr. Kvas** (Ukraine) said that, as a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, Ukraine welcomed Security Council resolution 2068 (2012) on children in armed conflict. It was working to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against children, with special attention

to child victims of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and trafficking, and had made progress on carrying out a national action plan for the implementation of the Convention.

55. Ukraine continued to work closely with UNICEF, ILO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support and protect mothers and children and was particularly grateful to UNICEF for its increasing involvement with the relevant authorities in developing substantial health, nutrition, education and protection for children, especially children in need. It looked forward to achieving significant progress on building up medical and social care, overcoming the health impact of the Chernobyl disaster on children, preventing homelessness and neglect of children and strengthening cooperation with NGOs working to combat child abuse, child trafficking and violence against children.

56. **Ms. Alsaleh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that her country was a party to most of the major international human rights conventions and was committed to promoting and protecting the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Protocols, which were gravely threatened by the ongoing conflict. Armed gangs and terrorists funded by foreign sources had pillaged homes, bombed over 2,070 schools and destroyed health facilities. On the first day in the school year of 2012, a terrorist group had bombed a school in Rif Dimashq, killing dozens of children. Armed groups were recruiting minors for participation in acts of aggression, a practice that had been documented by the international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. Despite that situation, the Ministry of Health had implemented innovative national programmes to promote child health. Private-sector doctors and local health officers were working together to vaccinate children in troubled areas.

57. Children had, however, been particularly affected by the illegal and unilateral sanctions imposed on the country. The price of medicines and medical equipment had skyrocketed because of the embargo on the national bank, thereby severely impeding the provision of basic services to children. In the occupied Syrian Golan, Israel continued to violate children's social, economic, cultural and health-care rights. Cluster bombs and mines had killed 227 children, some as recently as 4 October. The international community must condemn those ongoing violations; address

Israel's horrifying criminal actions in Palestine; work to detect the mines that were killing children in Palestine, Lebanon and the occupied Syrian Golan; and bring about an end to the blockade on the Gaza Strip, which had caused a sharp rise in child mortality. Referring to the statement by the United States representative, she agreed that Syrian children were being killed, abducted, tortured and used as human shields. However, the representative should place the blame squarely where it lay: on armed terrorist groups openly supported by certain other States, including the United States of America.

58. **Ms. Dali** (Tunisia) said that her country's dedication to promoting the rights of children was illustrated by its early ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Children, followed in 1995 by the adoption of a comprehensive child protection code. Tunisia was working to ensure the right of children with disabilities to special care, including special medical services, education and training. It also provided a wide variety of programmes for children lacking family support and children at risk.

59. In post-revolutionary Tunisia, the Government had made provisions for young people in the areas of health, education, training and employment. It was also undertaking comprehensive measures to help them achieve their potential as full members of society and had taken steps to give them greater voice in decision-making processes. She drew attention to the growing phenomenon of young undocumented migrants, who were at great risk of human rights violations. The concerted efforts of the international community would be required to devise an appropriate and durable solution, which must be based on respect for human rights, human dignity and egalitarian and inclusive development.

60. **Mr. Zeidan** (Observer for Palestine) said that Israel's military forces and extremist settlers continued to assault, harass and intimidate Palestinian children, including schoolchildren on their way to and from school. Since 2000, more than 6,000 Palestinian children had been arrested and detained, often on dubious charges. Many had been kept without charges in so-called administrative detention and subjected to physical and psychological abuse before being tried in military courts.

61. In the illegally blockaded Gaza Strip, nearly 1 million Palestinians minors living in a dire

humanitarian situation continued to be deprived of the basic human rights to freedom of movement, appropriate medical care, adequate housing and education. Without access to construction materials, residents were unable to rebuild homes, schools and vital infrastructure destroyed by the occupying Power. Indeed, according to the United Nations Country Team in the occupied Palestinian territory, if the blockage and bombardments continued, Gaza would be uninhabitable by 2020. He appealed once again to the international community to take immediate, decisive action to bring Israel into compliance with international law.

62. **Ms. Beremwoudougou** (Burkina Faso) said that her country was a long-time party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Alarmed at continuing widespread ignorance of children's rights, the Government had made promoting and protecting those rights a priority. To increase awareness, it had prepared and distributed a children's rights guide in the country's seven main languages, had included children's rights in the curriculum of the relevant professional training schools and had organized children's rights conferences and training programmes for targeted audiences.

63. To protect the most frequently violated children's rights, her Government had launched an action plan to eradicate female genital mutilation, had redoubled its efforts to combat forced early marriage and had outlawed corporal punishment in schools. More narrowly focused actions including adopting a list of hazardous occupations closed to children, building separate quarters for minors in correction facilities and launching a comprehensive programme to promote the rights of girls in domestic service. None of the above would have been possible without the very much appreciated assistance of UNICEF and Burkina Faso's bilateral and multilateral partners. However, for her country to continue to make significant progress, even greater support would be needed.

64. **Mr. Al Nsour** (Jordan) said that his country had formulated a national framework to combat child labour that specified the roles and responsibilities of the relevant Government agencies in a four-stage approach that consisted of reporting, initial evaluation, intervention and follow-up. Jordan's National Council for Family Affairs, in cooperation with the Child Friendly Budgets initiative of the United Nations

Children's Fund, was preparing a study of the impact on children of budgeting in four areas: development, education, health and labour. Jordanian legislation protected the life, health and safety of the child from the womb to the age of 18. Lastly, he noted that the recent influx of Syrian child refugees into the Jordanian school system was putting a strain on education reform efforts.

65. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile) said that his country's policies and programmes aimed to safeguard the interests and rights of children and adolescents in all spheres. Chile was implementing a comprehensive social protection system for early childhood and, at the primary and secondary school levels, had attained enrolment rates of 100 per cent and 90 per cent, respectively. Working closely with ILO, it had made significant progress in preventing child labour and sexual exploitation and in providing comprehensive assistance for child and adolescent victims.

66. Chile was implementing six different, specialized programmes in order to address the diverse problems of street children. Actions with respect to indigenous children were aimed at combating discrimination and creating integration-friendly environments. In order to combine punishment with appropriate rehabilitation, a separate juvenile justice system had been established that would soon be placed under a special government agency.

67. Internationally, Chile had been a member of the group of initial signatories of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure in February 2012. It participated actively in the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and had submitted its combined fourth and fifth reports in September. Lastly, he welcomed efforts to draw attention to children's rights issues, such as the recent observance of the International Day of the Girl Child and, especially, the seminars and workshops organized by various United Nations entities, which raised awareness of the complexity of the problems and made the reporting process more participatory.

68. **Mr. Elbahi** (Sudan) said that, in the years since it had signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, his country had worked to harmonize its domestic law with the provisions of that Convention, culminating in the enactment of its 2010 Child Act. Various child protection mechanisms had

been established on both the federal and state levels. Community police units had been deployed to protect children from all forms of violence, and the military had set up child protection units to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers.

69. A number of awareness campaigns had been conducted in conjunction with United Nations agencies. Statistics showed a substantial decline in child mortality and violence against children, and that progress had been commended by a 2011 report published jointly by the Sudanese National Council for Child Welfare and the United Nations Children's Fund.

70. However, the rebel movements in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile states continued to forcibly recruit minor children. The Sudanese military had submitted an action plan to put an end to the recruitment of child soldiers to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. The establishment of a human rights commission and a special prosecutor for Darfur in accordance with the 2011 agreement signed in Doha and the signature of a status of forces agreement in Abyei would also improve the situation of children in conflict areas.

71. The United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States had concluded a tripartite agreement on humanitarian aid for South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, although the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/North continued to obstruct its implementation. The Sudan had also signed border control agreements with its neighbours Chad, the Central African Republic and Libya, and cooperation agreements with South Sudan that would improve conditions for all its people, including children. Greater international efforts should be made to prevent violations of the rights of children in Arab territories suffering from occupation.

72. **Mr. Freeman** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, decried the energy that Israel's neighbours wasted on lies and baseless accusations. Astoundingly, the Palestinian Authority had neglected to mention that Palestinian children were systematically taught to hate Israelis, by or with the consent of the authorities, and were recruited to carry out suicide bombings. The Palestinian Authority devoted 6 per cent of its budget to the salaries of convicted terrorists that would be much better spent on the education and welfare of Palestinian children. As

for the baseless accusations by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, they were a pathetic attempt to divert attention from her Government's massacre of its own children.

73. **Mr. Zeidan** (Observer for Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the relevant United Nations reports and the advisory opinion of 9 July 2004 of the International Court of Justice did not contain baseless accusations. He recalled that Israel often used children as human shields. Its military forces sent child scouts into potentially dangerous situations before going in themselves. Palestinian children were pulled out of bed in the middle of the night for so-called mapping exercises. The facts spoke for themselves.

74. **Ms. Alsaleh** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the shameless lies told by the representative of Israel could not go unanswered. Israel's social welfare and humanitarian efforts on behalf of children were overshadowed by the terrorist actions of successive governments. In the Gaza Strip, Israel had destroyed schools and prevented the delivery of medicines for children. In the occupied Syrian Golan, it deprived families of water resources and prevented them from visiting their motherland, Syria. On 4 October 2012, two children at play had been killed by Israeli mines. Zionist children were taught to kill Palestinian children by having them fire at effigies during celebrations. Given the occupying Power's record, its representative's expression of concern for the children of the Syrian Arab Republic rang hollow.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.