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Provisional summary record of the 19th meeting (Room B)

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva on Wednesday, 3 July 2013 at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Hoxha (Vice-President) (Albania)

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

Annual ministerial review: science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals *(continued)*.

High-level segment: general discussion (continued)

Mr. Amunugama (Observer for Sri Lanka) said that his country had achieved many of the Millennium Development Goals. The poverty rate had declined significantly, from 15.2 per cent in 2006-2007 to 6.5 per cent in 2012, and the objective was to eliminate poverty entirely by 2016. The outcome to date was due essentially to progress in the area of infant and maternal mortality, nutrition, school enrolment, access to drinking water, sanitation and housing, and the provision of virtually universal free access to health care. Successes had also been recorded in the area of education, with the primary enrolment rate reaching 99 per cent for girls and boys alike in 2010. Sri Lanka was relying on emerging technologies and on scientific innovation to achieve its objectives, and especially for ensuring food security, a key consideration in achieving all the other Millennium Development Goals. With the implementation of the infrastructure needed to make the country a regional knowledge hub, Sri Lanka's education system was now focused on innovation and employment and on making full use of human resources. It was the Government's intention to build, by 2020, a society in which no one would lack skills. To this end, it was pursuing broad development programmes based on the mastery of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and geared to promoting a culture of science and technological innovation within the education system.

Mr. Simataa (Observer for Namibia) said that Namibia endorsed the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. ICTs were allowing greater public involvement in the design of public policies and would thus constitute an essential element for socioeconomic change. Their considerable potential must be put to use in achieving the most pressing development goals, such as eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. For the majority of Namibians, poor people living in rural areas, the hopes aroused by science and technology had yet to be realized. Their immediate concern had to do, not with the use of ICTs or even simple access to the Internet, but rather with satisfying their most basic needs. To ensure long-term development, Namibia had instituted a solid ICT infrastructure and had designed a number of innovative approaches, such as the MobiPay system for making payments by mobile telephone. In order to create the necessary bridges between the academic world, the private sector and the public sector, it had created the Namibia Business Innovation Centre, and had adopted an overall policy framework relating to science, technology and innovation (STI) based on upgrading human resources. Lastly, Namibia wanted to stress the importance of financing innovation in order to achieve the goals set by the international community. In this context, it hoped to continue its collaboration with all its partners in the United Nations system.

Mr. Fransman (Observer for South Africa) said that South Africa endorsed the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The commitments made by the international community in the economic and social domains, relating to the principles of sustainable development, the right to development, equity and mutual but differentiated responsibilities, must be honoured. Human capital was an essential factor for development in the STI field, and it was indispensable that the international community, and financial institutions in particular, should redouble efforts to help developing countries and should pay particular attention to the

problem of youth unemployment. As well, intellectual property rights often prevented poor people from accessing products of which they had such great need. The Council should commit itself actively to creating an international environment conducive to development, in which intellectual property rights did not pose a useless obstacle to the equitable distribution of the fruits of innovation, and to the transfer of technology. Generally speaking, while it was a good idea to design a post-2015 development programme, it was extremely important that the international community focus its attention on achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. For its part, South Africa had adopted a national development plan targeted in particular at eliminating poverty and inequality through growth and job creation, and by according a special role to STI. That plan went hand-in-hand with a programme of research, development and innovation with a special emphasis on space sciences, biotechnology and health, one that would contribute to reducing poverty and unemployment.

Mr. Tae-yul Cho (Observer for the Republic of Korea) said that, given the ongoing challenges posed by climate change, economic recession, the food crisis and the energy crisis, greater thought should be given to ways of seizing the advantages offered by STI and using them as the basis for a post-2015 development programme. The main task facing the international community in this regard was to create solid linkages between scientific communities and decision makers and to promote effective global partnerships between public authorities, the private sector and society so as to allow everyone to enjoy the benefits offered by STI, and to institute sustainable development. Culture and creativity were among the most important factors for socioeconomic development. Those two sectors, and cultural tourism in particular, held considerable prospects for developing countries, for they did not demand especially heavy investments. Having experienced 40 years of remarkable growth, thanks to the application and development of existing technologies, the Republic of Korea had recently launched itself on the road to the creative economy, with the objective of creating new markets, new sectors of activity and, in time, new engines of growth by merging ICTs with other sciences and technologies. It was striving to create an ecosystem that offered greater creative freedom and more autonomy, and that would reward imagination and creativity. The country would also be giving priority to building safety nets that would help entrepreneurs to survive a setback that could otherwise destroy their spirit of initiative and creativity. The Republic of Korea was eager to put its experience at the service of developing countries in order to reduce the so-called “creativity gap”.

Mr. Yalnazov (Bulgaria) said that STI offered suitable means for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and should be an integral part of the post-2015 development programme. New technologies and innovation could speed growth for all and could play a central role in eliminating poverty and combating climate change and environmental degradation. Among other measures taken in the field of STI, Bulgaria had updated its national programme for applying the Europe 2020 Strategy, which sought to promote sustainable and participatory growth in the European Union. That strategy called for a prompt increase – to 3 per cent by 2020 – in the share of gross domestic product (GDP) devoted to science and innovation by member countries of the European Union, the adoption of a national strategy for scientific research (2020) based essentially on education, research and innovation, and the establishment of a broadband network covering all countries. In addition, Bulgaria saw culture as an essential element of human societies and it considered that cultural tourism, ecotourism, the traditional arts and the creativity sector could be important vectors for sustainable growth and conquering poverty.

Mr. Kagawa (Japan) said that STI was bound to play a key role in promoting sustainable development for all. Japan was employing a broad range of leading-edge technologies as well as simpler techniques and it was eager to share its knowledge with its partners and to help establish conditions more favourable to the development of green technologies. Human security was one of the essential elements of development: by stressing the protection and empowerment of individuals, it would allow everyone to achieve his or her full potential.

Mr. Fasel (Observer for Switzerland) said that the current development model was not sustainable and that to cope with problems of worldwide scale such as climate change, hunger, scarcity of water resources, poverty and inequality, the model would have to be rethought. Scientific innovation and technologies were key elements in the transition to more sustainable development for all. On this point, implementation of the post-2015 development programme should be based on partnerships between Governments, international organizations, private sector players, private foundations, civil society and members of the scientific community. With its highly successful research centres, its capacity for innovation and its dedication to cultural diversity, Switzerland intended to contribute fully to that process. Coherent policies must be adopted in the fields of education, science and innovation, and an institutional environment conducive to scientific work, research and innovation must be created. Developing countries were facing a double challenge: on one hand, they must improve access to quality training and, on the other, they must develop the human resources needed to foster science and technology by reinforcing higher education and research capacities and by putting in place the necessary financing and infrastructure. Switzerland was urging United Nations institutions, other international organizations and the multilateral development banks to support the efforts of developing countries to this end.

Mrs. Cousens (United States of America) said that, with the current state of technology, it would be possible to eliminate extreme poverty within a generation and provide lasting solutions to climate change, put an end to preventable diseases and offer an education to anyone with an Internet connection. Education must be one of the great priorities for the international community, and major efforts must be made to stimulate growth, create lasting jobs, and improve living conditions. Connectivity also had a key role to play in development, for it offered access to infrastructure, financial resources, social services and markets, and it could influence the making of policy decisions. The United States was striving to trigger a virtuous circle of connectivity, collaboration and innovation through various actions, notably the Global Innovation through Science and Technology initiative, under which it was supporting entrepreneurs in more than 40 developing countries and strengthening collaboration between American researchers and those in developing countries. Moreover, to encourage innovation, it was important to establish an intellectual property regime that was predictable and equitable, and one in which the rules were transparent and respected. Lastly, the President of the United States had launched a new action plan on climate change, which called for considerable strengthening of international collaboration to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to facilitate worldwide access to renewable and non-polluting energy sources.

Mr. Elkarib (Sudan) stressed the importance of ensuring equitable access to STI and to culture for all countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs) and countries emerging from conflict, in a context where various aspects of development such as education, health and water had deteriorated following the economic and financial crisis. It was also important to narrow the digital divide, and Sudan supported the idea of creating a technology bank that would give LDCs

access to the technologies needed to integrate themselves into the world economy and to draw benefit from economic resources. Various studies had shown that development based on ICTs could promote social cohesion and stability. Traditional knowledge was a potentially important source of progress for agriculture, industry and the environment, and should be taken into account in national, regional and international policies. Lastly, with respect to General Assembly resolution 61/16 on strengthening the Council, Mr. Elkarib raised the following aspects: expanding the composition of the Council in accordance with the principle of equitable geographic distribution to allow more countries to participate in its decisions; rationalizing the Council's agenda to avoid duplication of effort; and the need for greater interaction with other bodies, in particular the General Assembly.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand) underlined the key role of STI as drivers of economic growth and international competitiveness, particularly in the agriculture sector, the source of a large portion of New Zealand's exports. New Zealand was taking a close interest in international initiatives focused on agricultural development and improving food security, especially in the context of climate change. Climate change and acidification of the oceans were having an impact on the marine environment and on fish stocks, on which many human beings, especially in the Pacific islands, were dependent for their food, their livelihood and their prosperity. An open and transparent trading system was also an important post-2015 consideration. Continued liberalization of agricultural trade under World Trade Organization (WTO) auspices remained a major priority for New Zealand, particularly the elimination of agricultural subsidies that distorted markets and encouraged unsustainable production methods. On the cultural front, New Zealand, whose important tourism sector was based in part on cultural services and products, was supporting cultural tourism in developing countries, especially in the Pacific region. It was planning to invest more than 45 million New Zealand dollars in tourism development in Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands.

Mr. Borodavkin (Russian Federation) said that strengthening scientific and technological cooperation and intercultural dialogue should be a priority in the post-2015 development objectives. The Russian Federation was striving to modernize and diversify its national economy in order to restore technology to its leading role in such sectors as chemicals, composite materials, aeronautics, ICTs, nanotechnology and medications. Thanks to a policy focused on the development of high value-added sectors, the country currently ranked 14th in the world in the Bloomberg innovation index. With respect to use of the Internet for illicit activities, the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States of America had decided, on the occasion of the June 2013 G-8 summit, to create a working group on cyber threats. Investments in recycling and reducing industrial wastes and in promoting energy efficiency, innovative entrepreneurship and intellectual property, with the opening in Moscow of an office of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), were among other important priorities for his country.

Mrs. de los Santos de Piantini (Dominican Republic) endorsed the statements by the Republic of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by Cuba on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The topic selected for the annual ministerial review was of particular interest to the Dominican Republic which, in the area of STI, had over the past decade pursued a strategy to establish an economy that was innovative and sustainable, allowing for sustained growth and international competitiveness. At the regional level, the Dominican Republic was a partner in education initiatives that stressed innovation and the enhancement of competitiveness and productivity.

Mr. Wibowo (Indonesia) subscribed to the statements made by the Republic of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Sri Lanka on behalf of the G-15. Indonesia's STI strategy for 2010-2014 was focused on six areas: food security, energy, ICTs, transport management and technologies, defence and security technologies, health and medicine, and advanced materials. The 2002 law on research, development and application of science and technology sought to promote and reinforce the role of technology so as to achieve national development goals swiftly. This mechanism was complemented by a national research centre. Particular attention was also being paid to boosting investment in STI, through incentives for research and development and the upgrading of human resources. With a view to sustainable development, Indonesia reaffirmed the need to ensure that all sectors of society, rural and urban alike, should be able to achieve technological innovations appropriate to their specific aspirations and needs. To this end, it would be important to create possibilities for developing and using STI based on local resources, know-how and wisdom. Indonesia was calling for greater international cooperation on behalf of developing countries, in the form of technical assistance and technology transfer, as well as capacity-building, capacity transfer, and equitable access to knowledge and technologies.

Mr. Khvostov (Belarus) regretted that the approach of international financial and trade institutions in their cooperation with third countries, including Belarus, had become politicized to some extent, whereas analysis should focus above all on the country's socioeconomic characteristics, in particular its foreign trade, and all possible attention should be paid to addressing the adverse consequences of the problems identified. According to the Belarus delegation, the international financial system should be reformed to take account of new economic realities, and to recognize efforts being made in this direction within the BRICS group (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa).

Mr. Manor (Israel) noted that his country had progressed in 65 years from an agricultural society to the rank of a world power in science and technology, demonstrating the contribution that STI could make to prosperity, stability and security. STI could ensure sound infrastructure, good health services and proper nutrition, all of which were fundamental for sustainable development. Entrepreneurs were playing an essential role in the STI system, preparing the ground for creating value and promoting growth. STI policies should take into account the entire technological cycle, from research to development, from experimentation to marketing, and from dissemination to consumption. As one example, he cited an Israeli firm that had recently developed a solar-powered water purification system that could benefit millions of people with no access to drinking water, and another firm that had designed a mobile telephone-based imaging system for the diagnosis and surveillance of malaria. Development cooperation must focus on capacity-building, education and the transfer of skills with a view to achieving sustained agricultural productivity, an important step in eradicating hunger and poverty. Women were playing a key role in agriculture and were making their own contribution to technological change in this area. For that reason, Israel was associated with various initiatives, including a support programme for women in the field of STI, and in October 2013, together with the Economic Commission for Europe, it would be hosting a workshop for women on the use of ICTs in business management.

Mrs. Velásquez de Avilés (El Salvador) was critical of the excessive importance accorded to market liberalization, to the detriment of a fairer distribution of the fruits of development. The concentration of capacities, technical and scientific in

particular, in developed countries was depriving other countries of the means to be competitive on global markets. Universal access to a quality education for all children was one of the great challenges facing societies. Sustainable development demanded the use of ICTs to help boost productivity and transform the economy, and thereby improve living conditions. The Salvadoran Government had demonstrated its political will to promote STI by creating a Vice-Ministry of Science and Technology, as well as national research centres, an agro-industrial technology park, a national network of centres in support of technology and innovation, and the forging of regional and international alliances for high-level professional training. The world must equip itself with an effective and transparent international financial architecture, adapted to the 21st century, and a form of global governance in which developing countries would carry greater weight. A new paradigm for development, centred on people, in particular the young, must be adopted, along with better cooperation practices, such as strengthened solidarity funds.

Mr. Gallegos Chiriboga (Ecuador) endorsed the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. In the face of glaring inequalities, a new paradigm of production, distribution and consumption was needed. Ecuador was currently moving from a primary economy to a knowledge economy. However, the technological gap between rich and poor countries must be prevented from widening, recognizing that progress should not come at the expense of the planet. Ecuador would be establishing four new universities, one of which would host public research institutes and private R&D centres working on nanotechnology, biotechnology, renewable energy and petrochemicals. These initiatives must not however obscure the need to deliver basic services to the poorest. With respect to the post-2015 development programme, the speaker noted countries' lack of political will to make changes and called for a return to elementary forms of cooperation based on solidarity and equality of rights for all. He recommended taking into account not only the economic and productive dimension of culture, but also its contribution to human dignity and to the building of equitable and respectful societies.

Mrs. El Midaoui (Observer for Morocco) said that, if the real intent were to respond to developing countries' needs, it would be preferable to develop technologies at the local level. However, scientific and technical research and training would first have to be enhanced. Measures could also be taken to encourage highly skilled émigrés to return to their country. Morocco was one of the first countries to have adopted such a strategy for fostering innovation in the area of ICTs, in order to strengthen the competitiveness of Moroccan firms. In 2009, it had adopted an ambitious strategy known as the "Morocco Innovation Initiative", with the goal of placing Morocco among technology producing countries. The objectives of the partners in that initiative were to produce 1,000 Moroccan patents and to create 100 new innovative enterprises every year to 2014. Morocco had made strategic commitments to young entrepreneurs, establishing three support funds to finance innovative projects submitted by young Moroccan enterprises. It had also created the Moroccan Innovation Centre, a one-stop window for financing such projects. Lastly, the Moroccan Government was planning to generalize the training module for creating innovative enterprises: it had hitherto been used on an experimental basis in higher education institutions. The Government also intended to support South-South cooperation.

Mrs. Kairamo (Observer for Finland) said that Finland subscribed fully to the statement made by the representative of Lithuania on behalf of the European Union. Her country considered that STI was everyone's business, and demanded

interdisciplinary approaches, active cooperation among different players at the national and international level, and ongoing dialogue among scientists, policymakers and society at large. The Finnish Government had established such a dialogue in 2011, to encourage the discussion of issues relating to climate and energy policies. Women and girls must benefit fully from STI initiatives, and major efforts were still needed to give them access to scholarships and research funds. Finland welcomed the Secretary-General's emphasis on the importance of transparency and freedom of access to data. Having adopted a programme of that kind, the Finnish Government saw it as an effective means for promoting growth, employment and competitiveness, for strengthening democracy and good governance, and for promoting citizen participation. Lastly, one could not insist too strongly on the importance of instituting a high quality education system open to all.

Mr. Alwosta (Libya) said that Libya endorsed the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. STI and culture were clearly contributing to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and were having positive impacts on the three pillars – economic, social and environmental – of sustainable development. As catalysts of economic and human development, they were contributing to political and social cohesion that favoured the democratic process and good governance. It was important to facilitate the still inadequate transfer of modern, environmentally friendly technologies and the associated training, to strengthen institutional capacities, and to create more balanced and supportive mechanisms of cooperation. The Libyan Government considered that culture must be taken into account in defining the modalities of development, and that it should be a priority in the post-2015 development programme. It agreed with the Secretary-General that the omission of culture had held back achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Libya was currently striving to build a democratic State that respected the rule of law. It would have to strengthen and modernize its institutions and its human resources and reorganize its education sector. To do this, it would need the support of United Nations institutions and programmes.

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) said that, in China's eyes, STI and culture could contribute to sustainable development. The Chinese Government wished to make four recommendations. First, STI and certain key cultural elements should be included in the sustainable development goals in order to create a prosperous and creative economic sector that was respectful of the environment. Second, countries' sovereignty in their development choices should be respected. Third, it would be well to promote the development of STI and culture as well as the transfer of technology. On this point, developed countries were asked to speed the transfer of technology to developing countries and to boost North-South cooperation in the area of technological innovation. Countries should participate more actively in South-South cooperation and North-South partnerships and should pool best practices in the area of STI and technology transfer. Fourth, the international community and developed countries should support the development of country-specific STI structures.

Mrs. Rodríguez Mancía (Observer for Guatemala) endorsed the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Guatemala had adopted several instruments for promoting research and innovation, including the National Competitiveness Programme, the National Commission for Science and Technology, and the Software Commission. These initiatives would not have been possible without public-private partnerships, collaborations with universities, and the participation of citizens. Thanks to that collective effort, the contents of the National Science and

Technology Week had been enriched, and an international network of Guatemalan scientists had been established. Technical progress had allowed Guatemala to move forward in the areas of security, justice and the rule of law and it had also improved access to credit, health services and education. Such progress was a source of job creation, particularly for the young, and was contributing to the growth and diversification of the economy.

Mrs. Maghanga (Kenya) said that Kenya endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The Kenyan Government had included STI in its national development plan in order to boost the country's international competitiveness, to promote its socioeconomic development, and to gain access to the knowledge economy. The law on science, technology and innovation, adopted in 2013, had given birth to a specialized national commission and to the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KENIA), which would work in close cooperation with the Industrial Property Institute of Kenya. A national research fund had also been established. Technology had transformed the agricultural sector, encouraged trade, and allowed Kenya to exploit new sources of renewable energy and achieve savings with traditional energy sources. Kenya placed great importance on scientific and technical training at all levels, especially for young people and women. There was still a shortage of financing for research and development, but increases were coming shortly. Around 1,000 research projects had received grants under a public financing programme. The next step was for Kenya to strengthen collaboration and partnership at the bilateral, regional and international levels, to multiply public-private partnerships, and to establish an effective policy control mechanism in the STI area.

Mrs. Marić-Djordjević (Montenegro) said that her country subscribed fully to the statement made by the representative of Lithuania on behalf of the European Union. Her country favoured the promotion of women's participation in science and technology activities. STI would be all the more useful when it was properly integrated into national development strategies and judiciously linked to economic and education policies. In light of the negotiations involved in joining the European Union, Montenegro viewed the promotion of these three sectors and of cultural diversity as driving forces in economic integration. It also supported the Council's role in integrating STI and culture into the post-2015 development programme, and it saw the need to strengthen cooperation among international players in the field and to request support from the United Nations system. Montenegro agreed that the Council's role in applying and monitoring the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences should be reinforced. Lastly, Montenegro thought that the Council and the United Nations system, which it considered an essential mechanism of cooperation, should be in a position to respond promptly to emergency situations and humanitarian crises, and it fully supported the efforts made to assemble all the resources necessary to that end.

Mrs. Navarro Llanos (Bolivia) said that, since 2006, her country had undergone a change of economic paradigm, opting for a model focused on "living well" on the basis of indigenous cultures, thanks to which the extreme poverty rate had declined from 38 per cent to 20 per cent in six years. The technological gap between developed and developing countries was still widening, and Bolivia was reminding developed countries of their obligations, which they were not respecting, to transfer technologies and refrain from introducing protectionist rules for intellectual property rights that would deprive humanity of the medications, seeds and technologies it needed. Bolivia was calling for the recovery and development of open and cooperative innovation models geared to the public good and, on the international front, for strengthening the exceptions, exclusions and restrictions

contained in the intellectual property rights regime for developing countries. It had made a number of proposals in this direction, including a ban on the patenting of living organisms. Bolivia rejected the notion of the “green economy” and in this regard it reaffirmed the provisions of paragraph 56 of the final document from the Rio+20 Conference (A/RES/66/288). The Plurinational State of Bolivia announced its intention to give a voluntary national presentation during the 2014 annual ministerial review.

Mrs. Bassim (Observer for Egypt) endorsed the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and of the G-15. She referred to the persistent knowledge gap between upper-income countries and middle- or low-income countries, noting that the first group surpassed the second in all development indicators. Similarly, 70 per cent of research and development was being done in high-income countries, notwithstanding the performance of East Asia in this regard. She called on developed countries to respect their commitments and support the dissemination of technologies. She stressed the importance of strengthening capacities and providing unconditional aid suited to the situation and needs identified by recipient countries themselves. She was sure that the Council would find a way to ensure a fairer global balance with respect to intellectual property policies.

Mr. Singh Puri (India) said it was essential for the intellectual property rights regime to respect the balance between rewards for innovation and the common good of humanity, and that it must be development oriented. Access to technologies was crucially important to developing countries’ efforts to speed progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, to remedy the effects of climate change, and to achieve sustainable development. Mapping the achievement of those objectives around the world revealed an empirical overlap of energy insecurity, economic poverty, malnutrition, and poor health indicators. India fully endorsed the Secretary-General’s proposal to create a worldwide technological facilitation mechanism, and it was eager to contribute its human resources and scientific means to the collaborative effort to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Mr. Ali Khan (Pakistan) associated his country with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and said that, in its ministerial declaration, the Council should call for adoption of a progressive approach to achieve a limited number of goals in the short term. Three measures deserved particular attention: enhancing modern technological penetration across and within countries, especially in the telecommunications field; lowering the cost of technologies related to renewable energy sources; and the institution of mechanisms towards a “data revolution” for sustainable development purposes. The Council should also give favourable consideration to the recommendation from the Development Policies Committee to the effect that Tuvalu ought to be removed from the list of least developed countries.

Mrs. Bibalou (Gabon) endorsed the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. She recalled the priorities of the strategic national plan, “Emerging Gabon”, for accelerating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and making Gabon an emerging country by 2025. Achieving the pillars of that plan – Green Gabon, Industrial Gabon, Services Gabon, Blue Gabon – would require high quality education, especially in the scientific disciplines, attuned to the country’s real development needs and priorities. From a stewardship perspective, the Government had decided to ban the export of raw logs without previous local processing, to combat the trafficking in animal and plant species, to create centres of excellence for health, to establish national parks to preserve the country’s natural and cultural treasures, and to launch a national ecotourism policy.

Gabon welcomed the recognition in the final document from the Rio+20 Conference (A/RES/66/288) of the need to foster cooperation through public-private partnerships, inter-university alliances, as well as South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, and it suggested that the role of the Council should be re-thought in light of the current challenges.

Mrs. Escorel de Moraes (Brazil) endorsed the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). For Brazil, the eradication of hunger and poverty was the primary issue for the Council's 2013 substantive session. Developing countries needed sufficient manoeuvring room to adopt measures to stimulate their scientific and economic development. The complex and systemic question of the link between intellectual property rights and development should therefore be treated on the multilateral level, rather than in the context of bilateral trade agreements. Similarly, the post-2015 development programme should consider the effects of those property rights regimes, in particular the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Aware of the fundamental role of education in promoting STI, the Brazilian Government had launched several initiatives, including the National Programme for Access to Technical Education and the "university for all" and "science without borders" programmes. In a spirit of solidarity with other countries, Brazil was ready to contribute to international efforts in this area, taking into account the specific needs and expectations of developing country partners.

Mr. Burley (International Development Law Organization (IDLO)) said that the absence of an enabling legal framework could explain the inequitable distribution of benefits from progress to date. The rule of law was key to achieving fair and sustainable development outcomes. It was often the case that developing countries lacked the required legal arsenal, and laws governing intellectual property and the transfer of technology did not take sufficient advantage of the flexibility and the exceptions offered by international instruments. Moreover, developing countries lacked the human and institutional resources to negotiate agreements and to guarantee proper enforcement of laws. Many of them were therefore taking only marginal advantage of progress in science, technology and innovation. Recalling the provisions set forth in paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 67/1, Mr. Burley said that, beyond the culture of innovation, a culture of justice must be instituted, supported by effective institutions.

Mr. Seghir Babes (International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS)) announced the creation, in cooperation with the United Nations Institute, of the Institute for Advanced Studies and Applied Research on Sustainable Development, which would open its doors at the end of the year in Algiers. He noted that the objectives of sustainable development were already included in the operational roadmap of AICESIS, and he wondered about ways of moving on from the Millennium Development Goals, still largely unfulfilled, to the objectives of sustainable development. Noting that AICESIS comprised nearly 80 economic and social councils from around the world, he asked the Council to examine ways to accord the organization its rightful place.

Mr. Parmigiani (Legião da Boa Vontade) asked that special attention be paid to the role of STI and culture in achieving education goals. Through various social and educational programmes, his organization had achieved interesting results through the use of innovative pedagogic strategies and communication technologies for combating poverty and promoting development and social integration, in particular among at-risk youth.

Mrs. Hayward (Global Foundation for Democracy and Development) reported that her organization was working in the Dominican Republic to facilitate people's access to knowledge. To this end, it was sponsoring projects associating the public and private sectors and civil society, and promoting strategies and projects for closer cooperation among the three sectors. Public institutions had been created for the teaching of science, technology and innovation, and an enabling legal framework had been introduced to encourage the appropriate use of telecommunications. More than US\$ 60 million had been devoted over eight years to a scholarship programme for students in science and technology.

Mrs. Glaser (International Council for Science), speaking on behalf of the scientific communities in more than 130 countries, said that the first step towards turning societies around over the next 20 years would be to have policymakers come to an agreement on a common framework for sustainable development goals. The world's scientific communities were fully determined to work with their partners to find and implement the solutions needed to move towards a viable world, as demonstrated by the new global, interdisciplinary initiative focused on solutions in the area of research, entitled "Future Earth: research for global sustainability".

The meeting rose at 7 p.m.