



# Economic and Social Council

*Provisional*

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## Substantive session of 2013

### General segment

#### Provisional summary record of the 40th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 19 July 2013, at 3 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Sajdik (Vice-President) . . . . . (Austria)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations** (*continued*)

**Regional cooperation** (*continued*)

**Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan** (*continued*)

*General discussion (continued)*

**Mr. Azzam** (Observer for Lebanon) said that his country welcomed the conclusions presented in the report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (E/2013/13). His delegation also endorsed the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The report showed that the occupying Power continued its policies and practices in violation of the rules of international law applicable in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Lebanon denounced the systematic Israeli discriminatory policies in the economic and social fields, the disproportionate use of force by the Israeli army, the mistreatment of prisoners and children, the demolition of houses and infrastructure, the settlements, the forced displacement of the Palestinian people and the continuation by Israel of its policy to encourage the settlement of Israelis in the Syrian Golan. As the report stated, the inhabitants of the settlements in that region were almost as numerous as the Syrian Arab population. The international community must put an end to all forms of violations of the economic and social rights of Palestinians in their territory.

**Mr. Khabbaz Hamoui** (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) said that the occupation of the Syrian Golan since 1967 has caused the displacement of half of its inhabitants. He denounced the confiscation of land, which had been given to Jewish settlers, the imprisonment for many years of Syrian Arabs and the inhuman and degrading treatment inflicted on them, the prohibition imposed on Arabs preventing them from exporting their agricultural products, the confiscation of water sources, the

prohibition of trade, the establishment of military posts impeding free movement, the prohibition imposed on Syrian Arabs preventing them from returning to Syria and the refusal to grant them work permits, the theft of ancient art objects, the barriers imposed on Arabs seeking to learn their mother tongue and the prohibition of access to natural resources. He asked members of the Council to adopt draft resolution E/2013/L.16 by consensus and to reaffirm the obligation to respect the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

**Mr. Bougacha** (Tunisia) said that his country supported the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He stressed the Israeli tendency to codify racial discrimination. In that connection, there were many laws that discriminated against Palestinians, including laws preventing them from inheriting land. He denounced the arbitrary detentions and stated that the presence and behaviour of the occupying Power rendered impossible the development of the Palestinian people.

**Mr. Minty** (South Africa) said that his country fully associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The report of the Secretary-General clearly showed that the discrimination imposed by Israel continued to undermine any initiatives for peace and justice, particularly the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people remained a subject of dispute. South Africa continued to vigorously oppose the blockade of Gaza, the inability of humanitarian assistance to gain access in order to alleviate the disastrous resulting situation in general on humanitarian grounds and to ensure the enjoyment of fundamental rights. The support provided by the South African Government for the Palestinian cause consisted in particular in capacity-building, inter-cultural exchange programs and international aid and development projects in the West Bank and Gaza.

**Mr. Al-Zamily** (Observer for Iraq) said that Iraq supported the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and welcomed the report of the Secretary-General. He denounced the lack of food security and the violence suffered by Palestinians, and stressed how important it was to facilitate access to the people in need of humanitarian assistance.

**Mr. Al-Hammadi** (Qatar) condemned the racist practices of the occupying Power, which aggravated the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people, the continued Israeli military aggression, the separation

wall, the use of torture, especially on children, and the blockade of Gaza. Qatar would continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people until it regained all its rights and had an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital.

**Ms. Ahmed** (Observer for Bahrain) said that her country welcomed the report of the Secretary-General. She noted that the Israeli restrictions prevented any growth of the Palestinian economy. She noted further that the settlement movement was accelerating at an alarming rate and that 190,000 people were currently installed in 33 settlements in the occupied Syrian Golan. Her delegation hoped that draft resolution E/2013/L.16 would be adopted.

**Mr. Almarzooqi** (Observer for the United Arab Emirates) welcomed the report of the Secretary-General, but expressed his concern at the deteriorating economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The occupation of that territory was an obstacle in the planning of the health system, resulting in shortages, and undermined the development of health infrastructure. His delegation also wondered what measures were being taken within the United Nations system to protect educational institutions threatened with destruction.

**Ms. González** (Observer for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) noted with concern that there were still some colonial situations preventing people from exercising their right to self-determination. Referring to the report entitled "Latin America and the Caribbean: economic situation and outlook, 2012-2013" (E/2013/19), she noted that it was accurate and gave a good account of the important reforms in Venezuela in the field of labour and the dynamism of its domestic economy. Finally, associating itself with the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Venezuela denounced the Israeli policy aimed at fragmenting Palestinian territory and deemed it necessary to revive the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and to recognize the State of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations.

**Mr. Talab Tousi** (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country supported the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and welcomed the report of the Secretary-General. He noted that the report rightly stressed the segregation and racism practiced by Israel and noted that the Council should avoid sending any signal that would encourage the Israeli regime to continue its illegal and aggressive policies.

**Mr. Boukili** (Observer for Morocco) said that the Israeli authorities continued to change the demographic composition of the Holy City of Jerusalem and continued the excavations under the Al-Aqsa mosque. In that connection they had destroyed the Mughrabi Gate, a sacred place for all religions. He added that Morocco supported draft resolution E/2013/L.16.

**Mr. Chebihi** (Observer for Algeria) said that Algeria associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. His delegation also welcomed the Secretary-General's report, which emphasized correctly that the main obstacles facing the Palestinian economy were related to the occupation, not to the economic policies of the Palestinian Authority, the scope and resources of which were necessarily limited.

**Mr. Nasr** (Observer for Egypt) said that his country welcomed the comprehensive report submitted by the Secretary-General and endorsed the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Egypt denounced the destruction of infrastructure, which had, in some cases, been funded by international donors. Israel controlled over 80 per cent of the water and prevented Palestinians from gaining access to water from the Jordan. Israel had destroyed water desalination facilities and operated landfills for Israeli waste in Palestinian territory. Israeli policies were causing anaemia and malnutrition among Palestinians and imposed barriers preventing access to schools. Egypt reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people and their desire to create a State within the 1967 borders and to exercise their right to self-determination.

**Mr. Alzaroug** (Libya) said his country supported the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and condemned the destruction of arable land belonging to the Arab population.

**Ms. Xie Zhangwei** (China) said that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) required regional cooperation and development aid in order to bring marginalized countries out of poverty, and that that must be at the heart of the post-2015 development programme. The most recent conference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) had helped to strengthen the resilience of the Asian countries and to review the measures needed for capacity-building. It had also showed the need to develop national strategies for sustainable development and to establish global partnerships for development, within the framework of the

follow-up to the Rio +20 Conference. China intended to play a leading role in that process by actively participating in the work of ESCAP, guided by targeted studies that were tailored to the needs of countries and identified the main problems, foremost among which were disaster reduction and prevention.

**Ms. Emilia** (Indonesia), noting that her country associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that since 2008, under the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, Indonesia had been providing training to nearly 1,250 Palestinians in various areas, including entrepreneurship, microfinance, agriculture, the health professions and good governance. Scholarships had also been issued to Palestinian students who wanted to come and train in Indonesia. In 2014, the country would host a regional conference for the development of Palestine. Indonesia supported draft resolution E/2013/L.16.

**Ms. Escorel de Moraes** (Brazil), noting that her country associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that Brazil was very concerned at the continuing illegal construction in the occupied territories and the settler violence against Palestinians. Arbitrary arrests, the displacement of people and the multiple barriers to the freedom of movement of Palestinians, including the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, were all violations of human rights that must cease immediately. Brazil had provided assistance to Palestinians in several areas: education, food security, agriculture, health and sport. Between 2011 and 2013, it had funded projects for international cooperation in the field of health and infrastructure, totalling \$8.5 million. The Brazilian Government, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) had recently signed an agreement, under which Brazil had donated 11,500 tonnes of Brazilian rice to UNRWA.

**Mr. Caspi** (Observer for Israel) said that, once again, the debate on the issue was motivated by political considerations, which undermined the credibility of the Council. In view of the tragic events in Syria, it was somewhat surprising that the Council included in its agenda the examination of the situation of the inhabitants of the Syrian Golan, which suggested that it saw no need to dwell on the fate of the Syrian people torn by conflict in Homs and Damascus. However, the fate of the latter was much more worrying than that of the inhabitants of the Syrian Golan. The same applied to the people of the Gaza Strip,

where the reality on the ground completely contradicted the facts put forward in draft resolution E/2013/L.16. According to Mr. Mahmoud Al-Zahhar, a leader of Hamas, the Gaza Strip where "the economic situation had improved significantly," was "autonomous in many ways". Far from denying the reality of the crisis in the Gaza Strip, Israel wished to recall that that crisis was the result of terrorist actions on the part of Hamas. In that connection, he noted, the Palestinian Authority rewarded terrorists convicted by Israel according to the severity of the attacks that they had carried out and was spending for that purpose 6 per cent of its total budget. Although serious, the situation in the Palestinian territories could not be described as a humanitarian crisis, because that only had the effect of diverting the attention of the international community from regions actually in need. Israel would continue to support the Palestinian economy and wanted the peace talks with Palestine to continue.

**Mr. Ismail** (Sudan), associating himself with the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Israeli occupation was a clear violation of international law and that the inhumane practices that resulted from the occupation must cease immediately. His country supported draft resolution E/2013/L.16.

**Mr. Zambrana** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that his country supported the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and deeply regretted that, after forty-six years of Israeli occupation, Palestine still could not enjoy the right to self-determination and that the peace process was deadlocked. The Israeli occupation was unacceptable, was detrimental to human rights and violated in particular the General Assembly resolution on the human right to water and sanitation (General Assembly resolution 64/292). The Plurinational State of Bolivia supported draft resolution E/2013/L.16.

**Mr. Alsharrah** (Kuwait) said that his country supported the statement made by the representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Kuwait condemned the expansion of settlements and feared that Palestine would not be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. It urged the international community to force Israel to end its illegal occupation and supported draft resolution E/2013/L.16.

**Mr. Zuhairi** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that Israel should be ashamed to deny the realities and to characterize

some Palestinians as terrorists, when the facts clearly showed that it was the Israeli army that committed acts of terrorism, with the approval of the Government, as evidenced by the recent arrest of a Palestinian child of 5 years.

**The President** said that the Council had completed its general discussion of agenda items 9, 10 and 11.

**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations** (*continued*)

*Introduction of draft resolution E/2013/L.24*

**The President** invited the representative of Ecuador to introduce, on behalf of the sponsors, draft resolution E/2013/L.24 entitled "Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations".

**Mr. Proaño** (Ecuador), speaking as the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, said that Algeria, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela were sponsoring draft resolution E/2013/L.24. The draft resolution aimed to facilitate cooperation between agencies of the United Nations and the administering Powers of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in order to qualify the Territories for assistance and support from the United Nations, pursuant to resolution 1514 (XV) of the General Assembly. The draft resolution called upon the administering Powers to facilitate the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in meetings and conferences of the United Nations and recommended to all Governments that they assist the peoples of those Territories as a matter of priority. He invited all members of the Council to approve the draft resolution by consensus.

**The President** said that the Council would discuss the draft resolution at a later date.

**Regional cooperation** (*continued*)

**The President** stated that the Council had taken note of the reports contained in documents E/2013/16, E/2013/17, E/2013/18, E/2013/19, E/2013/20 and E/2013/21.

*Decision on draft resolution E/2013/L.28*

**Mr. Belmont Roldán** (Spain), introducing, on behalf of Spain and Morocco, draft resolution E/2013/L.28 entitled "Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar," said that the studies undertaken on the project since 1980 were well advanced and that the choice had been made in 1996 to opt for the construction of a railway tunnel. Spain and Morocco welcomed the link, convinced that the economic development of the area would be strengthened and the opening of terminuses equipped with advanced technology would provide added value to the project. The challenges were many - geological, climatic, environmental, technological and financial - but in-depth studies and ongoing coordination between the various actors would no doubt make it possible to meet them. He recalled in that connection the most recent joint report prepared under the direction of the Joint Spanish-Moroccan Committee, which had reported on the studies carried out between 2006 and 2013 and the measures planned for 2013-2015.

**The President** invited the Council to consider the draft resolution, which had no programme budget implications.

*Draft resolution E/2013/L.28 was adopted.*

**Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan** (*continued*)

*Decision on draft resolution E/2013/L.16*

**Ms. Chan** (Observer for Fiji) introduced, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, draft resolution E/2013/L.16 entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan". The text expressed serious concerns about violations of economic and social rights of the Palestinian people and stressed the need to preserve the continuity, unity and territorial integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to guarantee the free movement of people and goods throughout the Territory, both to and from the outside world. It also called for the rapid and effective implementation of the agreements that had been concluded

and for the peace process to be revived and intensified in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

**Mr. Jansons** (Latvia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, stated that the Union would vote in favour of the adoption of the draft resolution, but considered that the expression "the Palestinian Authority", which appeared in the text, should be interpreted as referring to the Palestinian Government.

**Mrs. Ellis** (New Zealand) said that New Zealand would also vote for the draft resolution, which was in line with its long-standing policy with regard to the Palestinian territories. Her delegation considered, however, that the term "Palestinian Government" should have been used instead of "the Palestinian Authority".

*A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Austria, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Libya, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, San Marino, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

*Against:*

Canada, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Haiti.

*The draft resolution was adopted by 43 votes to 2, with abstention.*

**Ms. Robl** (United States of America) expressed her disappointment that the resolution adopted, like many others before it, pointed a finger at one of the two parties and did not therefore meet the hope for a constructive approach, which is what the Israeli and Palestinian peoples wanted. The United States would continue to work to improve the living conditions of the people in the Palestinian territories but could only vote against a resolution that it felt diminished confidence.

**Mr. Zuhairi** (Observer for the State of Palestine) wished to express his appreciation to the States that had enabled the adoption of the draft resolution. Resolutions

remained the most effective way as long as the Israeli occupation persisted.

*The meeting was suspended at 5.15 p.m. and resumed at 5.25 p.m.*

## **Coordination, programme and other questions**

### **Reports of coordination bodies**

#### **Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015**

#### **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

#### **Tobacco or health**

#### **Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields**

#### *Introductory statements*

**The President** noted that the Council had before it the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (A/68/16). Mr. Mokhtari, the Chairman of that Committee regretted not being able to present the document, but a copy of his written statement, which outlined the major findings and recommendations, had been distributed in the meeting room. The Council also had before it the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2012 (E/2013/60), which had already been introduced.

**Ms. Beagle** (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), introducing the note by the Secretary-General contained in document E/2013/62, said that progress in the fight against HIV had accelerated since the previous report to the Council by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), however Millennium Development Goal 6 had not yet been reached and Goal 4 on reducing child mortality and Goal 5 on improving maternal health could also not be achieved without ensuring universal access to the prevention and treatment of HIV. Tackling AIDS was an investment that paid off in the long term in all sectors of development. That is why the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board had recently stressed that HIV should be at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda. UNAIDS was willing to provide support to all stakeholders in the fight against the epidemic.

**Mr. Chestnov** (World Health Organization), after introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control (E/2013/61), said that the Secretary-General had submitted to the Economic

and Social Council a number of recommendations. First, the Task Force should evolve so as to include a wider non-communicable diseases programme. The new task force on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, whose creation was recommended, would deal with all such diseases and include a subgroup specifically responsible for tobacco control with the ability to create other subgroups if necessary. That would involve amending the agenda item under which the work of the Task Force had been discussed so far. Secondly, it would be desirable to improve the cooperation and communication between institutions, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WHO, so as to take stock of measures taken at the country level and ensure that the fight against non-communicable diseases and tobacco occupies a place in the future United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Thirdly, parallel to activities at the country level aimed at integrating the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control into the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, cooperation between institutions and the effective use of existing expertise should remain a priority. A useful matrix was presented in annex 1 to the report. Finally, given the increasing interference of the tobacco industry in the work of the United Nations, the Secretary-General recommended the adoption of guidelines so as to ensure the independence and objectivity of the work of the United Nations.

#### *General discussion*

**Mr. Alimov** (Russian Federation) commended the role played by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). That body should, however, be more transparent, including through the greater involvement of States in decision-making, the organization of more regular meetings with States and the dissemination of more information on its website. He also urged that the existing recruitment procedures should be further simplified and harmonized and that CEB recommendations should comply with United Nations policies on procurement and recruitment. The Russian delegation supported all efforts to expand access to antiretroviral therapy, provided that they respected the sovereign right of countries to develop their own policies to fight AIDS to suit their priorities and the characteristics of the epidemic. He drew attention to the fact that the epidemic was spreading in Central Asia and Central Europe, a phenomenon directly linked to drug trafficking from Afghanistan. Finally, the Russian Federation welcomed the intention to broaden the mandate of the Inter-Agency Task Force and hoped that a

subgroup would be created to fight against other risk factors for cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, such as alcohol consumption, physical inactivity and dietary imbalance.

**Mr. Corrales** (Observer for Panama) was proud of the fact that his country was the second country in the Americas to ratify the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Despite the economic interests at stake, smoking was primarily a public health problem. Panama had been chosen to host the international launch of the WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2013, and he saw that as a recognition of his country's work in that area. It was indeed the first country in the region to prohibit the advertising of tobacco products. In that context, Panama fully supported the Inter-Agency Task Force in its fight against tobacco. It nevertheless considered it appropriate to broaden the mandate of the Task Force, as proposed in the report (E/2013/61), provided that a sub-group exclusively dedicated to the fight against tobacco was maintained. Finally, he hoped that draft resolution E/2013/L.23 would be adopted by consensus.

**Ms. Fuchs** (Austria) said that the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) had initially been created to strengthen the work of all United Nations agencies in the urgent fight against AIDS. Today, it was a well-managed programme that helped countries identify their means of action against the disease. Reaffirming its support for the primary mission of UNAIDS, Austria supported draft resolution E/2013/L.32 but regretted that it contained no reference to the advocacy work of UNAIDS. Finally, Austria fully supported draft resolution E/2013/L.23, which it considered to be a step closer to a less vertical and less fragmented approach to health issues.

**Ms. Padilla Rodríguez** (Mexico) said that draft resolution E/2013/L.32 reflected in a balanced manner the progress made and challenges being faced in the fight against AIDS and enjoyed a broad consensus. Mexico would continue to advocate for the response to HIV/AIDS to be defined in its epidemiological context with a focus on human rights. That meant combating stigmas and discrimination based on sexual orientation but also promoting access to treatment and reducing the cost of treatment.

Mexico welcomed the decision to broaden the mandate of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control to cover the prevention of non-communicable diseases in general. She saw that as an unprecedented positive decision likely to strengthen the multisectoral



nature of the Task Force, without prejudice to the mandate of WHO.

**Mr. Piperkov** (Bulgaria) said that the fight against HIV/AIDS went beyond the health sphere to include demographic, economic, social and ethical dimensions. Bulgaria shared the vision of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and was actively committed to maintaining a low prevalence of HIV/AIDS in its territory, as evidenced by the adoption by the Government of the National Strategy and National Action Plan to prevent and combat AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, and the signing of bilateral funding agreements between Bulgaria and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

**Mr. Toro Carreño** (Observer for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) reiterated his country's commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Venezuelan Government had adopted various public policies and specific measures to reverse the upward trend of the epidemic expected in 2015, which were described in the progress report on the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supported draft resolution E/2013/L.23, which would lead to the implementation of a wide range of measures not only to prevent tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke but also to ban all advertising for tobacco products and to fight against contraband tobacco and its derivatives. With such decisive action, it was among the countries of the region that had seen their smoking rates decline. Venezuela was convinced that the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, the drafting of which the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had actively participated in, contributed to strengthening national policies and international cooperation in that regard.

**Mr. Silva** (Observer for Uruguay) fully supported the recommendations submitted to the Council by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control in document E/2013/61. He hoped that all stakeholders would continue to consider how best to ensure the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in the long term.

**Mr. Quintalla Román** (Cuba) stated that initiatives taken by the United Nations System Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) should be fully consistent with the decisions of Member States and expressed his regret that actions had again been undertaken without a genuine inter-governmental mandate or in areas where Member States

were divided. He also reaffirmed that greater transparency and more dialogue were needed between the CEB and Member States. Cuba also noted that the document submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) lacked consistency and rigour to such an extent that it could not be examined in detail. It was also essential to remain faithful to the spirit and letter of General Assembly resolution 58/269 during the review of the mandates described therein. His delegation therefore requested that the General Assembly study in detail the proposed changes in the wording submitted to the CPC and in particular that the wording be revised for subprogramme 2 of programme 11.

**Mr. van Schalkwyk** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the African Group, called on international organizations to continue to provide technical assistance and capacity-building services to developing countries in the field of the prevention of non-communicable diseases. He reaffirmed, in that regard, the importance of access to medicines, including generics, and medical technologies. The Inter-Agency Task Force should focus on promoting North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in order to promote the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries and to encourage the domestic production of medicines and other products. Such aspects should be taken into account in augmenting the scope of the future Inter-Agency Task Force, which must be negotiated in consultation with Member States. He added that South Africa supported draft resolution E/2013/L.23.

**Ms. Chammas** (Observer for Germany) paid tribute to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and to the progress that work to fight against AIDS had led to, not only in terms of health, but also in terms of addressing issues related to human rights and inequality in the health sector. The participation of civil society and the people affected, the adoption of a multisectoral approach and the definition of new instruments of governance and funding were some of the innovations developed to combat HIV, which the international community would do well to emulate in other areas of health and development. Although enormous progress has been made in parts of the world in terms of preventing and treating HIV, other regions, such as the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, were experiencing a different trend. Germany therefore called on UNAIDS, other United Nations agencies and all stakeholders not to leave those regions aside and to adopt a differentiated approach depending on

the specificities of each region. She fully supported the draft resolution before the Council and hoped that the issue of HIV/AIDS would continue to be included in the post-2015 development programme.

**Mr. Neelam** (Observer for Australia) said that his delegation supported draft resolutions E/2013/L.23 and E/2013/L.32 and wished to thank India and the Russian Federation for the role they had played in the drafting of those texts.

**Mr. Pellet** (France) reaffirmed the support of France for draft resolution E/2013/L.32, which provided, in his view, a good working basis for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and its 11 cosponsoring organizations for two years. France wished, during the consideration of the draft resolution, to honour the memory of Eric Lembembe, Executive Director of the Cameroonian Foundation for AIDS and an activist for gay rights in Cameroon, who had been murdered in Yaoundé on 16 July 2013. France, recalling its commitment to respect the rights of all regardless of their sexual orientation and the protection of human rights, wanted full light to be shed on the circumstances of the crime and its perpetrators brought to justice.

**Mr. Piantini Munnigh** (Dominican Republic) said that draft resolution E/2013/L.23 raised some concerns for the Dominican Republic. His country employed more than 100,000 people in the tobacco sector, mainly small farmers whose production was used in the manufacture of cigars, which were non-addictive products consumed in small quantities mostly by an adult clientele, given their price. He regretted that the drafters did not talk about "smoking" but "tobacco", without qualification, as if all forms of tobacco were harmful, which was not the case. Aboriginal people, for instance, had made use of tobacco for centuries for medicinal and culinary purposes.

**Ms. Vogel** (Sexual Rights Initiative) pointed out that sexual and reproductive health was often marginalized, which constituted a real obstacle to sustainable development. Interventions based entirely on health considerations had proven insufficient, and a holistic approach based on human rights was needed to overcome the problem. Various studies had been conducted in that area within the United Nations system, in particular by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee against Torture, the Special Rapporteurs on the right to health, on violence against women and on the right to education, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in

collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as part of its technical assistance. She reaffirmed that the post-2015 development programme must be based on international standards that required States to ensure the enjoyment of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health.

**The President** said that the Council had completed its general discussion of sub-items (a), (b), (e), (g) and (h) of agenda item 7.

*The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.*