

**Economic and Social Council***Provisional*

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General segment

**Provisional summary record of the 44th meeting**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 23 July 2013 at 3 p.m.

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

**Coordination, programme and other questions** (*continued*).

**Long-term programme of support for Haiti**

**The President**, recalling the Economic and Social Council's long-standing interest in the situation in Haiti and the mobilization of the international community in the aftermath of the terrible earthquake of 2010, said that today the emergency relief phase had given way to development. It was now time to assess progress made, obstacles that remain, and how the international community is meeting the country's needs.

*Introduction of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti*

**Mr. Norman** (Canada), introducing the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2013/90) on behalf of the Group's Chairman, drew attention to the need for donors to honour their commitment to supporting reconstruction and development activities in Haiti, including those that are part of the strategic development plan drawn up by the Haitian Government. Haiti will not recover alone, and the sustainability of its development is a responsibility shared by the country's authorities, its development partners and the United Nations system. It involves establishing a climate of confidence, building national capacity and institutional stability, establishing the rule of law, and holding the country's political and economic leaders to their commitments. The Group welcomes the establishment of the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti (CAED), intended to strengthen the principle of mutual responsibility between Haiti and its partners. It also welcomes the establishment of the Transitional College of the Permanent Electoral Council but stressed the need to make such practical arrangements as necessary for the election timetable to be met and for Haiti's partners to receive the positive signals they are expecting. Reforms must be undertaken in areas such as land ownership, civil status and the financial system in order to facilitate the realization of the country's economic potential and attract foreign investment, promote growth and create jobs.

Despite the many challenges that remain, progress has been made under the leadership of Haitian authorities and with the support of the international community: nearly 80 per cent of those displaced by the earthquake have returned to their neighbourhoods or found a new home; disaster preparedness has improved; efforts are being made to rebuild and develop infrastructure; the "Five Es" programme (education, environment, employment, energy and rule of law) is being implemented; and initiatives are being taken to provide the country with better organized public services and better trained public servants. Though decentralization of public services remains inadequate, there are encouraging signs. Recruitment and training of officers for the Haiti National Police, to which the Haitian Government and its international partners attach great importance, are a key stability factor.

The United Nations system is working in a more coherent manner and measures are being taken for the gradual transfer of programme responsibilities to Haitian partners. Regional cooperation, particularly in the context of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), is another point worthy of mention, as it could lead to partnerships in commercial, agricultural and tourism sectors. The Organization of American States (OAS) is also committed to Haiti. The Group believes that support for Haiti must remain a priority for assistance by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the United Nations country team.

**Mr. Alakbarov** (Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim in Haiti) said that the Haitian President had pledged to hold elections in 2013 and that the Prime Minister had made arrangements for that purpose. In June 2013, the Prime Minister adopted the Career Plan of the Haiti National Police, which is an important step in the professionalization of officers. Progress has also been reported in maternal health, access to drinking water, schooling and acute child malnutrition. Resettlement of displaced persons is continuing: between January and June 2013, the number of candidates for resettlement fell from 350,000 to 280,000, approximately. However, another problem should be noted: illegal forced evictions have accelerated since the beginning of 2013, and 75,000 displaced persons living on private land are at risk.

Despite progress made, urgent problems remain, including cholera and food insecurity. While the cholera epidemic has waned, the arrival of hurricane season calls for strong measures, for which funding has yet to be fully allotted; hence, the Secretary-General has designated a high-level coordinator for cholera, whose chief remit will be to mobilize resources for Haiti. Because of drought and crop destruction during the 2012 hurricane season, a million and a half people are living with severe food insecurity, including 800,000 who receive no food aid whatever.

It should be noted that, thanks to progress made by authorities in the field of disaster preparedness, the first storm of the season caused no material or human damage. The “political champions” group for disaster resilience, of which the Prime Minister is a member, has identified two geographical areas in which projects will be carried out. The Committee on Aid Effectiveness is working to revitalize the sectoral and thematic panels to improve the functioning of the coordination mechanism. The 2014-2016 three year investment programme will be adopted under the 2013-2014 finance act. MINUSTAH, in collaboration with the Haitian Government, has finalized the consolidation plan, which defines the stabilization criteria on the basis of which its departure will be decided. Finally, harmonization must begin on the 2013-2016 integrated strategic framework and MINUSTAH consolidation plan. That could result in revision of the strategic framework by the end of 2013 or beginning of 2014, in consultation with the Government, which will validate it.

#### *General discussion*

**Ms. Madrigal Muñoz** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that most of the soldiers and police officers of MINUSTAH are from CELAC member countries. Support for Haiti, in the form of technical cooperation, humanitarian assistance and medical assistance in particular, is also provided bilaterally and through regional and subregional organizations and the United Nations system. CELAC member States emphasize once again the commitment of the Government of Haiti to take over coordination of all international, regional and bilateral technical and financial cooperation, in accordance with established priorities.

**Mr. Dunbar** (Haiti) said that the Haitian delegation supports the main conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, as well as the statement made by the representative of Cuba on behalf of CELAC. The Haitian Government has embarked on reforms in five priority areas, namely education, rule of law, employment, environment and energy. At the humanitarian level and as regards reconstruction, progress has been very significant given the meagre resources available in the country. In the humanitarian area, the measures taken have helped resettle more than a million people who had taken refuge in tents following the earthquake of 2010. In addition, the results of

anti-cholera efforts are encouraging. In the field of education, it should be noted that more than 1 million children are in school. On the economic front, many measures have been taken to stabilize the situation. Jobs have been created in the areas of outsourcing and hospitality, and the Government has invested heavily in rebuilding roads, airport infrastructure and public buildings as well as housing construction, which also has a positive effect on employment. In the field of law, the Government has established the High Judicial Council. The reform of public administration is part of the framework programme of State reform, which aims to modernize the administration and make it more effective. Finally, the Haitian Government has launched a number of social programmes that will allow many families to cope with poverty. Among the outstanding challenges, the funding of reconstruction and development programmes and projects remains the primary one. In that regard, South-South cooperation is crucial because of its flexibility and transparency and the timeliness of disbursements. Vulnerability to natural disasters is another major challenge that needs to be given greater weight in reconstruction activities.

**Mr. Favero** (Brazil) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Cuba on behalf of CELAC. He emphasized the importance of holding local and parliamentary elections as soon as possible. The legitimacy that they are expected to confer is essential to consolidate a number of important initiatives, in particular with regard to poverty reduction, and to make further progress in the rule of law and the promotion of investment. Brazil reiterates that the rule of law goes beyond the conditions of security and predictability required for development of the private sector. It needs to meet Haitians' most urgent needs, and especially those of the weakest and poorest among them. In the fight against poverty, it is essential to understand that social participation and a fairer distribution of income are powerful engines of growth and essential dimensions of sustainable development.

**Mr. Piantini Munnigh** (Dominican Republic) said that the Dominican delegation endorsed the statement made by the representative of Cuba on behalf of CELAC and supported the adoption of draft resolution E/2013/L.31. While tangible progress has been made, Haiti is one of the least developed countries and is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Humanitarian and development aid to Haiti must be strengthened, reforms must be undertaken, mainly in order to fight against extreme poverty and the large accumulated delay in development, and political instability must be controlled.

**Mr. Osorio** (Colombia) said that Haiti had a stable Government that had begun to take concrete initiatives. Thus, most of the displaced have been able to return home, and families affected have received direct financial assistance. Other positives include the decline of cholera, the reconstruction of infrastructure and facilities, the resumption of mining and tourism activities, and the restoration of institutions and the rule of law. Should less support be given to Haiti, the progress made would be at risk. Colombia is contributing in the areas of agriculture, environment, public policy, and rehabilitation of infrastructure and housing, as well as in the fight against drugs, kidnapping and extortion.

**Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that in March 2013, the United States had approved an aid budget of \$3.6 billion and that \$2.6 billion had been disbursed as humanitarian assistance and recovery, reconstruction and development aid. It is encouraging that progress has been made in strengthening local emergency response capacity. The Government of the United States is cooperating with the Haitian Government on improvement of agricultural techniques and strengthening

commercial facilities country-wide. In addition, it is supporting donor coordination, especially through the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti. However, it remains concerned about the slow progress in the organization of elections and the judiciary.

**Ms. Hernández** (Mexico) said that her delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Cuba on behalf of CELAC. Mexico's cooperation with Haiti takes place in four priority areas: education, health, agriculture and economic development. It takes the form of a joint initiative between the public and private sectors, the Mexico for Haiti Alliance. It is also a direct public cooperation, a triangular cooperation, e.g. with Chile, Spain and Japan, and a multilateral cooperation with the United Nations and the Inter-American system.

**Mr. Van Schalkwyk** (South Africa) said that South Africa urged the international community to continue to provide financial support to Haiti. Given the bureaucratic obstacles to the provision of that support at some implementing agencies, South Africa is exploring other distribution channels. The South African delegation supports draft resolution E/2013/L.31 and the recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

**Mr. Imanishi** (Japan) said that in December 2012, Japan had not only contributed 540 million yen for food aid to Haiti, but had also participated in the reconstruction of health facilities in the country and provided emergency medical aid. Japan has also contributed \$2 million to Haiti as ODA and will continue to support the country in the areas of health and education.

**Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) said that the prospect of upcoming elections in Haiti shows that the country's normalization process is on track, but drew attention to the vulnerability of displaced persons who have yet to be resettled and to preventive measures required in advance of the coming hurricane season. Regretting that red tape is preventing the use of available funds, delaying the delivery of aid and the country's rehabilitation, he urged the international community to facilitate disbursement procedures as recommended in the report.

**Mr. Alakbarov** (Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim in Haiti) said that he had taken note of the issues raised during the discussion and that they would be examined closely with members of the United Nations country team in Haiti.

**The President** said that the Council had concluded its general discussion on paragraph (d) of agenda item 7.

*Decision on draft resolution E/2013/L.31*

**The President** called on the Council to take action on draft resolution E/2013/L.31 entitled "Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti" and informed the Board that the project had an impact on the programme budget.

**Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council), reading out a statement on the programme budget implications, said that expenditure associated with adoption of the draft resolution was estimated at \$17,900. That should be covered by resources provided under chapter 9 (Economic and Social Affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the 2014-2015 biennium as follows: \$15,900 to cover representatives' travel expenses and \$2,000 for contractual services.

*Draft resolution E/2013/L.31 was adopted.*

**The President** said that the Council had concluded its review of paragraph (d) of agenda item 7.

*The meeting was suspended at 4:55 p.m.; it resumed at 5 p.m.*

**Coordination, programme and other questions** (*continued*)

*Introduction of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the theme “Financing for humanitarian operations in the United Nations system”*

**Mr. Inomata** (Joint Inspection Unit), introducing the report entitled “Financing for humanitarian operations in the United Nations system” (JIU/REP/2012/11) contained in document A/67/867, said that the purpose of the report was to assist the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) to better coordinate humanitarian actions system-wide. A number of improvements have been made to the system in recent years, but the wide array of financing mechanisms for humanitarian action, such as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), pooled humanitarian funds and multidonor trust funds, as well as the proliferation of financing activities, are producing some duplication of effort. This is complicated by the blurred line between humanitarian assistance and the use of military assets to protect civilians and the lack of any comprehensive evaluation procedure. To cope with uneven resource distribution and inadequate funding for activities such as the restoration of affected populations’ livelihoods, the report recommends a more holistic programming approach whereby strategic funding of humanitarian action would be planned to cover the entire United Nations system, avoid duplication and facilitate the transition from the emergency phase to the early recovery phase.

Of the report’s eight policy recommendations, six are addressed to the Secretary-General and two to the General Assembly. The recommendations focus on improving the efficiency, predictability and sustainability of financing to make the Consolidated Appeals Process an instrument of strategic financial planning (Recommendation 1); on the principle of accountability for the use of military assets (Recommendation 2); on the adoption of humanitarian funding principles based on soft earmarking of resources (Recommendation 3); on the organization of relief and reconstruction conferences (Recommendation 4); on the establishment of system-wide guidelines on the establishment of emergency and recovery funds and reserves (Recommendation 5); on the adoption of a capacity-building policy to assist disaster-affected countries (Recommendation 6); on the development of harmonized humanitarian portfolio databases applicable at the country level (Recommendation 7); and on the establishment of joint multidonor trust fund management units in each country (Recommendation 8).

The humanitarian disaster that struck Haiti has taught us several lessons and enabled an *a posteriori* review of best practices that led to the recommendations set out above. Thus, it was found that the Consolidated Appeals Process has not been the only means of financing, since \$182 million was made available in 2011 through other procedures, some of which were implemented by organizations outside the United Nations system, such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). In addition, the “three Rs” mechanism ((emergency) humanitarian response, recovery and reconciliation), implemented by MINUSTAH and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), has proved useful. The humanitarian emergency in Haiti showed, too, that MINUSTAH could participate effectively in humanitarian operations, by making its military personnel available for search and rescue and civilian relief operations, and that it absolutely must coordinate with humanitarian workers. The Integrated Strategic Framework for

Haiti is a good example of successful integration of humanitarian, peacekeeping and development activities, and a formula we would do well to generalize. Finally, Mr. Inomata noted that the report calls on the Secretary-General to explain how the Common Humanitarian Action Plan, the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) and the integrated strategic frameworks can serve as a basis for United Nations agencies' endeavours to assist countries affected by humanitarian emergencies, thus enabling a better response to their national priorities.

**Mr. Imanishi** (Japan) stressed the importance of the report's first recommendation, which highlights the key role of the Consolidated Appeal Process in the development of an effective strategic financing framework, and the relevance of the eighth recommendation, on improved resource use, a goal included in the Transformative Agenda and one that should improve system transparency.

**Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) commended the work of OCHA and the innovative solutions it had implemented to raise funds for emergency situations, in particular through CERF. She urged the international community to assume its responsibilities under the Transformative Agenda in the interests of aid beneficiaries and transparency of the humanitarian system; she thought it indispensable to have a broad range of financing mechanisms, based on earmarked resources or not. The United States of America is working in the field in close cooperation with local partners and is able to provide direct bilateral financial support, to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in particular. For that reason, the United States considers that Recommendation 3 overlaps with Recommendation 6.

**The President** proposed that the Council take note of the documents published under the symbols A/67/867 and A/67/867/Add.1.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.*