



# Economic and Social Council

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## Substantive session of 2014

Second coordination and management meeting

### Summary record of the 46th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 16 July 2014, at 3 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Oh Joon (Vice-President) . . . . . (Republic of Korea)

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*In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

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

## **Economic and environmental questions (continued)**

### **(b) Science and technology for development**

*(continued) (E/2014/31)*

1. **Ms. Ibrahimova** (Observer for Azerbaijan) said that developing countries lagged far behind developed ones in terms of access to the Internet and information, which was essential for public governance, business development and the promotion of sustainable development. Eurasian countries were at a particular disadvantage since they were landlocked and located far from broadband highways, and lacked the necessary infrastructure. Her Government had proposed the construction of a trans-Eurasian information superhighway to improve regional connectivity. The General Assembly, by its resolution 67/194, had established the Eurasian Connectivity Alliance, which would be coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and was expected to generate synergies by expanding telecommunications and information and communications technology (ICT) networks in the region, including broadband access, and to support projects such as the Trans-Eurasian Information Superhighway. The Superhighway would benefit 20 countries in the region and was an excellent example of cross-border cooperation between public and private institutions.

2. **Mr. Morozov** (Russian Federation) said that discussions about the Internet should be inclusive and the private sector, civil society and academia should be consulted on the matter. Governments, however, should be mainly responsible for defining national ICT priorities. Given the increasing importance of the Internet for addressing sustainable development issues, greater attention needed to be paid to information security, ensuring the reliability of global networks and protecting ICT infrastructure. The Russian-language sector of the Internet had expanded considerably, as had the online presence of the Russian media, and his Government was working to protect the personal data of its citizens.

3. Managing the Internet in line with the interests of one country or group of countries would result in divisions and weaken international cooperation,

including on global development issues. Confidence-building measures, such as transboundary trust spaces and electronic signatures, were required. The Russian Federation had experience in developing such initiatives and in cooperating with other regions to integrate technologies that could increase added value. An intergovernmental consensus on the Internet was also required. Unfortunately no such consensus had been reached at the Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance held in Sao Paulo in April 2014. The outcome document failed to uphold the right to privacy and practically defended the right of security services to monitor Internet traffic anywhere in the world, which contravened the principle of sovereignty and would exacerbate the inequality between developed and developing countries. It should not be viewed as an internationally endorsed document. He called upon the Council to support the call for the renewal of the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum.

*Action on recommendations contained in the report of the seventeenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2014/31)*

4. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft proposals contained in the report (E/2014/31), noting that they contained no programme budget implications.

*Draft resolution I: Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society*

*Draft resolution II: Science, technology and innovation for development*

*Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its seventeenth session and provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission*

5. *Draft resolutions I and II and the draft decision were adopted.*

### **(f) Population and development (E/2014/25)**

6. **Ms. Frankinet** (Chair of the Commission on Population and Development) introducing the report on the forty-seventh session of the Commission (E/2014/25), said that the theme of the session had been the assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International

Conference on Population and Development. The Commission's proposed resolution on the subject stressed the importance of full implementation of the Programme of Action, owing to its close links with poverty eradication efforts and efforts to achieve sustainable development.

7. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that significant progress had been made in education and in lowering maternal and child mortality since the adoption of the Programme of Action, which had guided the Council's work in that area since 1994. Many of the most vulnerable had been left behind, however, and countries had agreed that urgent attention must be given to the promotion and protection of the human rights of all persons, universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education, the elimination of gender-based violence, gender equality and the empowerment of women and young people. Her Government was especially pleased that the Commission, in both the report on its forty-seventh session and its resolution 2014/1, had highlighted the situation and needs of the 1.8 billion people aged 10 to 24, many of whom were living in poverty or with HIV or, in the case of girls, getting married and giving birth before they turned 18 and thus jeopardizing their health, their lives and their opportunities. Young people must be able to make informed choices and have access to sexual and reproductive health services, as well as sexuality education, so that they could live healthier and more productive lives. Her Government was committed to building on the progress made to create a better future for all, especially for women and children. The special session of the General Assembly on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, to be held at its sixty-ninth session, would be an opportunity to reaffirm support for the Conference's agenda and ensure it remained central to the next generation of development goals.

8. **Mr. Hansen** (Denmark) said that the Commission's report should guide the work of the Council and would serve as an important tool for decision-makers. Not only did it highlight gaps and challenges, it also provided the tools for addressing them. Specifically, it identified sexual and reproductive health and rights, education and services, and the necessary political will as the tools that States should use to fulfil the right to life of the 70,000 adolescent girls who died each year from preventable causes

related to pregnancy and child birth, as well as the right to life of the million children per year who died before their first birthday after being born to adolescent mothers.

9. **Ms. Abascal** (Cuba) said that her delegation wished to reaffirm its dissatisfaction that the agreements reached at the Commission's forty-seventh session had not reflected better the essential relationship between population and development, which should also have been reflected in the Millennium Development Goals and now needed to be incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda. She also noted with regret that the report of the Secretary-General on the framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action (A/69/62) did not include an analysis of the impact of the structural problems of the global economic system on populations or countries' capacities to implement the Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

10. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decision contained in the report (E/2014/25).

*Draft decision: Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-seventh session and provisional agenda for its forty-eighth session*

11. *The draft decision was adopted.*

**(i) Cartography (E/2014/78)**

12. **The President** drew attention to the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-eighth session (E/2014/78).

13. **Mr. Neelam** (Observer for Australia) said that holding the twenty-ninth session of the Group of Experts in the regional hub of Bangkok would encourage greater participation by experts from countries in South-East Asia and would promote the development of place-name data as a tool for humanitarian and disaster relief programmes. A similar rationale had previously been used when a session had been held in Kenya, leading to greater participation by African geographical experts. There would be minor budgetary implications, but the Council would be able to absorb those costs within its existing resources.

14. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions contained in the report ([E/2014/78](#)).

*Draft decision I: Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on its twenty-eighth session and the dates, venue and provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session*

*Draft decision II: Amendment to the rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names*

15. *Draft decisions I and II were adopted.*

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

(a) **Reports of coordination bodies (continued)**  
([A/69/16](#); [E/2014/69](#))

(b) **Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017** ([A/69/6](#))

16. **Mr. Mwinyi** (Chair of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)), introducing the report of the Committee on its fifty-fourth session ([A/69/16](#)), said that the Committee had considered and made recommendations on the Secretary-General's reports on programme performance for the biennium 2012-2013 ([A/69/144](#)), the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 ([A/69/6](#)) and United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) ([E/AC.51/2014/3](#)); the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its fifty-first session on the programme evaluation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ([E/AC.51/2014/2](#)); and the annual overview report of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2013 ([E/2014/69](#)).

17. While the Committee had reached consensus on all 28 of the programmes it had considered under the biennial programme plan, owing to differences between member States on some aspects of the plan outline, it recommended that the General Assembly should review the plan outline ([A/69/16](#) (Part one) and Corr.1) at its sixty-ninth session.

18. **Ms. Abascal** (Cuba) said that her delegation was concerned that the instruction given to programme directors to shorten their respective biennial programmes, solely for the purpose of generating

savings, failed to take into account the delicate political balance of the programmes and would have a negative impact on intergovernmental decision-making. The Secretariat must improve transparency, increase dialogue with Member States and respect the roles of the various bodies in the formulation of the strategic framework. The plan outline, in turn, must reflect the decisions of the Member States. Cuba supported the conclusions and recommendations of CPC in that regard. Her delegation was also concerned by the lack of consistency in the review process for the different programmes, and found it regrettable that the Office of Legal Affairs had determined that the Human Rights Council was not responsible for analysing programme 20, Human rights.

19. **The President** proposed that the Council should take note of the report of CPC on its fifty-fourth session ([A/69/16](#)), the relevant sections of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 ([A/69/6](#)) and the annual overview report of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2013 ([E/2014/69](#)).

20. *It was so decided.*

#### **Social and human rights questions (continued)**

(e) **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** ([E/2014/47](#), [E/2014/48](#), [E/2014/62](#) and [E/2014/79](#); [E/2014/L.21](#))

21. **Mr. Janz** (Director, New York Liaison Office, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)) presented an oral report on behalf of the High Commissioner on the coordination of UNHCR activities implemented in partnership with Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies and other multilateral bodies, as well as the beneficiaries of UNHCR programmes. He said that 2013 had been marked by a cascade of level 3 emergencies unseen since the Rwandan genocide of 1994. UNHCR capacities had been stretched to the limit by crises in the Central African Republic, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and elsewhere. Over 10 million people had been newly displaced and by the end of 2013, the population of interest to UNHCR stood at an unprecedented 51 million persons. A new refugee coordination model set out the standard UNHCR response and organizational structure in refugee situations. UNHCR had also worked with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other

Inter-Agency Standing Committee partners to demarcate roles and responsibilities for refugee coordination and the broader humanitarian response, especially in “mixed” situations where populations of humanitarian concern included refugees and displaced persons. That process had culminated in an agreement on the roles and responsibilities of UNHCR and the refugee coordinator in a mixed situation. UNHCR continued to enhance the capacity of its protection, shelter, camp coordination and camp management clusters for internally displaced persons. It had also decided to scale up its expertise in multilateral and inter-agency affairs through strategic secondments and the creation of an inter-agency coordination service at Headquarters to ensure that the Office was focused and strategic in its internal consultations on inter-agency affairs, and coherent in its external advocacy. Efforts had been made to manage complex emergencies in spite of resource constraints, in some cases at the expense of “forgotten” or protracted refugee situations. UNHCR therefore renewed its appeal for greater international solidarity and burden-sharing.

22. The Transformative Agenda was in its second year and had been put to the test in a number of emergencies, and UNHCR remained committed to transforming the way the Inter-Agency Standing Committee worked. UNHCR had deployed senior staff for cluster coordination and the provision of core relief items to increasing numbers of beneficiaries, and had seconded senior staff to the Humanitarian Coordination Pool, the Transformative Agenda implementation team, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee secretariat. The refugee coordination model complemented the Transformative Agenda as a means of regularizing coordination arrangements in emergencies. UNHCR responsibilities included building resilience and finding solutions in protracted displacement situations. Recent mega-emergencies where entire countries had been affected by refugee movements had shown that humanitarian action in isolation from the broader development agenda was not sustainable. Comprehensive and inclusive development initiatives were needed; otherwise, protracted and insoluble situations would be perpetuated. Forced displacement was an indicator of underdevelopment, instability and poor governance. It affected development indicators, including those related to poverty, health and education. Through the Transitional Solutions Initiative, UNHCR had worked to address livelihoods and self-sufficiency for refugees, returnees and host communities. Refugees, stateless persons and

internally displaced persons had been consulted and were involved in accordance with the Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming Strategy. UNHCR also promoted universal birth registration for stateless persons.

23. UNHCR attached great importance to nurturing partnerships with national and international NGOs, which were crucial participants in assistance activities, often on the front line of humanitarian action and in volatile situations. UNHCR had worked with NGOs to ensure a more predictable emergency response and enhance solutions for the displaced while renewing partnership principles in the field. It had also sought complementarities with NGOs in the areas of advocacy and operational cooperation.

24. New crises were multiplying and old ones never seemed to disappear. Global governance was weak and impunity and unpredictability were forcing millions to flee their homes. Host communities and governments were under strain and a greater burden-sharing effort was needed from the international community.

25. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that 2013 had been a challenging year for UNHCR. Coordination and partnership had been key to the emergency responses in recent complex mega-emergencies. There should be strong links between the refugee response and the wider humanitarian response. Better planning and information-sharing would make it possible to meet the needs of those affected, especially at a time when financial resources were stretched. It would be interesting to know more about the practical impact that the recent joint note by UNHCR and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on mixed situations had had on coordination and service delivery in the field. UNHCR was right to partner with affected governments and development organizations and to advocate for the inclusion of displaced persons in development initiatives. It was an unfortunate reality that a lack of good governance and basic services, and ongoing insecurity, prevented many refugees from returning home. States should maintain asylum space as new emergencies broke out and old crises continued. Efforts to increase self-reliance were needed to preserve the dignity of refugees and reduce their impact on host communities. Updates on the transitional solutions initiative and the solutions alliance would be welcome. UNHCR should continue to nominate experienced and senior staff for humanitarian coordinator positions within the

framework of the Transformative Agenda, for the benefit of all. Partnerships with NGOs were essential for UNHCR planning and implementation, and efforts to increase transparent dialogue with those organizations should be made not only at Headquarters but also in field operations.

*Draft decision E/2014/L.21: Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

26. **Ms. Smolicic** (Observer for Uruguay), speaking also on behalf of Armenia, Chad and Georgia, introduced the draft decision in document E/2014/L.21, entitled “Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees”. She said that the countries for which she spoke were willing to become members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and met the criteria established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. They were committed to improving the situation of refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons, and finding solutions to their problems in accordance with international standards, and were States parties to international instruments in the areas of human rights and international refugee law. Refugees enriched their host societies with their life experiences and cultural heritage, and contributed to the development of a culture of peace and intercultural dialogue. Constructive cooperation with all members of the Executive Committee would make it possible to find solutions to the challenges facing the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

27. *Draft decision E/2014/L.21 was adopted.*

**(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2014/43)**

28. **Ms. Dorrough** (Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues) introducing the report on the thirteenth session of the Permanent Forum (E/2014/43), said that it contained recommendations on principles of good governance consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; a report on a discussion of the Asian region; a dialogue with United Nations agencies and funds; the post-2015 development agenda; and emerging issues in the area of human rights. It also

contained proposed draft decisions on an international expert group meeting on dialogue on an optional protocol to that Declaration, with a focus on lands, territories and resource rights, the right to self-determination, self-government and autonomy; the venue and date of the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum; a recommendation that the Economic and Social Council should take note of the report and approve the provisional agenda of the fourteenth session; a change in the name of the Permanent Forum to the “Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”; and the holding of an additional one-day meeting for members of the Permanent Forum to discuss methods of work. That meeting would not have any budgetary implications.

29. The Permanent Forum had initiated discussions with a view to becoming a more effective mechanism and wished to explore opportunities, in consultation with member States, to expand its role and visibility within the Council. Informal consultations continued concerning the high-level plenary meeting also known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

30. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) asked whether the additional one-day meeting would be attended only by the 16 members of the Permanent Forum or whether other Member States and representatives of indigenous peoples and institutions would also have an opportunity to exchange views on how to improve the Forum’s methods of work. She noted with satisfaction that the Permanent Forum would further discuss changing its name, and that the expert group had recognized the central role of health, and in particular sexual health and reproductive rights, as a precondition for social and economic development. The governments and institutions of indigenous peoples should be included in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and its preparatory process.

31. **Ms. Dorrough** (Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues) said that there was a need for international recognition of the specific role of indigenous governments, which was different from the role of NGOs. There would be an opportunity for participants other than the 16 members of the Permanent Forum to be heard in discussions on its methods of work. One of the advantages of holding the additional one-day meeting in New York was that doing so would give the Permanent Forum access to

experts in the public administration of the United Nations.

32. There was ongoing dialogue with certain governments concerning financial support for an intersessional meeting on the Permanent Forum's working methods, and the Government of New Zealand had responded favourably to a proposal to host such a meeting, which would include a discussion of how the role of the Permanent Forum could be reinvigorated.

33. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the draft decisions contained in the report ([E/2014/43](#)).

*Draft decision I: Dialogue on an optional protocol to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

34. **Ms. Khusanova** (Russian Federation) said that the fact that her delegation wished to join the consensus on the meeting of the expert group on the optional protocol to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples should not be viewed as direct or indirect support for any of the views of States concerning the Declaration. The content of the optional protocol should be submitted for review by the Economic and Social Council. The methods of work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues should be streamlined.

*Draft decision II: Venue and dates of the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum*

*Draft decision III: Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its thirteenth session and provisional agenda for its fourteenth session*

*Draft decision IV: Change of name of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*

*Draft decision V: Additional one-day meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*

35. *Draft decisions I, II, III, IV and V were adopted.*

*The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.*