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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 32nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 13 November 2014, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Cardi ..... (Italy)

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

**Agenda item 19: Sustainable development**

(A/C.2/69/L.2, A/C.2/69/L.14/Rev.1, A/C.2/69/L.16, and A/C.2/69/L.38)

*Draft resolution on international cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan (A/C.2/69/L.2)*

1. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.2](#), submitted by Kazakhstan on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Bultrikov** (Kazakhstan) said that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors, bringing the total number of sponsors to 86. He invited all other Member States to become sponsors.

3. **The Chair** said that Paraguay and Thailand had also become sponsors.

4. *Draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.2](#) was adopted.*

*Draft resolution on entrepreneurship for development (A/C.2/69/L.14/Rev.1)*

5. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.14/Rev.1](#), submitted by Israel on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

6. **Ms. Levavi** (Israel) said that Antigua and Barbuda, Congo, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, San Marino and Vanuatu had joined the sponsors.

7. **The Chair** said that Angola also wished to join the sponsors. A recorded vote had been requested on the draft resolution.

8. **Mr. Laassel** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States in explanation of vote before the voting, said that, as had been clearly documented in the report prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory ([TD/B/61/3](#)), and reports by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Israeli occupation continued to impede

entrepreneurship and prevent the Palestinian people from exercising their right to development. Israel's illegal practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory also impeded the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including those on the eradication of poverty and universal access to primary education. Israel had deliberately targeted Palestinian homes, infrastructure and water and energy facilities; had sought to destroy their communications networks and agricultural and industrial sectors; and had prevented domestic and foreign investment in those vital fields, exacerbating already high levels of unemployment, particularly among women and young people. Blatantly refusing to comply with international humanitarian and human rights instruments and United Nations resolutions, Israel, the occupying Power, was in no position to submit the draft resolution, which the Arab Group felt compelled to reject.

9. *A recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga,

Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia.

*Against:*

Algeria, Bahrain, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

*Abstaining:*

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Ecuador, Guinea, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Sri Lanka.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/69/L.14/Rev.1 was adopted by 127 votes to 28, with 10 abstentions.*

11. **Mr. Prozor** (Israel) said that the international community's overwhelming endorsement of the text of the resolution reflected growing awareness that empowering entrepreneurs advanced sustainable development and that creating opportunities for entrepreneurs led to greater opportunities for everyone. The world was filled with young men and women who saw opportunities in challenges, and possibilities where others could only see the impossible. Many were courageous dreamers who, despite the hardships they faced, worked incessantly until their dreams became reality to the benefit of entire communities. Regrettably, many Arab nations had once again voted against the resolution. In doing so, they had cast a vote against opportunity and economic prosperity, and against their own people. The vote was yet another attempt by the Arab Group to delegitimize Israel. Arab States would sooner keep their citizens shackled by hardship than accept the key to unlocking progress if Israel was one of the locksmiths.

12. Few countries knew more about reaping wealth from entrepreneurship than Israel, which, in just six decades, had transformed itself from an impoverished new State into a prosperous member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and a global leader in innovation. Israel created more start-ups per capita than any nation on earth and registered the third-highest number of patents

per capita in the world. Thousands of inventions that were used by tens of millions of people throughout the world, including drip irrigation, solar panels, flash drives and driving navigation systems, had been invented in Israel. Indeed, Israel was living proof that for nations to promote stability, they must empower their people, and if they wished to enhance sustainability, they must engage every member of their societies, particularly women and young people.

13. The adoption of the resolution did not mean that no work remained to be done, however. Rather, States must redouble their efforts to ensure that every person had the opportunity to contribute to his or her community.

*Draft resolutions on follow-up to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014): Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (A/C.2/69/L.16 and A/C.2/69/L.38)*

14. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.38](#), submitted by Ms. Francis (Bahamas), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.16](#). Draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.38](#) contained no programme budget implications.

15. *Draft resolution A/C.2/69/L.38 was adopted.*

16. *Draft resolution A/C.2/69/L.16 was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (continued)**

**(c) Women in development (continued)**  
([A/C.2/69/L.23](#) and [A/C.2/69/L.36](#))

*Draft resolutions on the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (A/C.2/69/L.23 and A/C.2/69/L.36)*

17. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.36](#), submitted by Ms. Tham (Singapore), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.23](#). Draft resolution [A/C.2/69/L.36](#) contained no programme budget implications.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/69/L.36 was adopted.*

19. *Draft resolution A/C.2/69/L.23 was withdrawn.*

**Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development** (*continued*) (A/C.2/69/L.35)

*Draft resolution on building capacity for the evaluation of development activities at the country level* (A/C.2/69/L.35)

20. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/69/L.35, submitted by Fiji on behalf of the sponsors listed in the document. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

21. **Mr. Suveinakama** (Fiji) said that paragraph 3 of the draft resolution should be amended to read: “Requests the Secretary-General to provide an update in 2016 on progress made in building capacity for evaluation, based, inter alia, on inputs from Member States and the United Nations development system, including the United Nations Evaluation Group as well as the Joint Inspection Unit, to be considered during the quadrennial comprehensive programme review of operational activities of the United Nations system in 2016.”

22. Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Kiribati, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Turkmenistan and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors, bringing the total number of sponsors to 45.

23. **The Chair** said that Guinea, Serbia and Ukraine had also become sponsors of the draft resolution, as orally revised.

24. **Mr. Biya** (Cameroon) said that “*sur leur demande*” in the third preambular paragraph of the French version was not an accurate translation of “upon request”. He proposed that the French version of the paragraph should be amended to read: “...lorsqu’elles ont reçu la demande...” with a view to preventing any confusion and ensuring that the French and English versions of the paragraph corresponded.

25. *It was so decided.*

26. **Mr. Morchoive** (France) said that his country also wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution, as orally revised.

27. Draft resolution A/C.2/69/L.35, as orally revised, was adopted.

*The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.*