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President: Mr. Rae (Vice-President) (Canada)

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In the absence of Ms. Narváez Ojeda (Chile), Mr. Rae (Canada), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions *(continued)*

(c) Statistics (E/2024/24)

1. **Mr. Ulrich** (Chair of the Statistical Commission), speaking via video link, introducing the report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-fifth session (E/2024/24), said that, in accordance with Council resolution 2022/3, the Commission had shifted from focusing solely on statistics to addressing the growing demands for data and statistics. The Commission was seeking to strengthen the coordination of the various United Nations statistical programmes with a view to enabling the provision of reliable statistics and data for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission was also seeking to contribute to initiatives such as the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere and the global digital compact.

2. The fifty-fifth session of the Commission had been attended by over 550 delegates from 108 countries and about 50 international agencies and non-governmental organizations. Such a high level of attendance reflected the strong commitment to supporting the important role of the Commission in global data and statistics. The session had concluded with the adoption of 23 technical decisions that would guide the global statistical system and the future work of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

3. During the session, the Commission had unanimously adopted a draft resolution entitled “An inclusive and representative Statistical Commission to leave no one behind”. As a result, the number of members of the Commission would be incrementally increased from 24 to 54 over the coming three years. The draft resolution included a request for a review of and report on progress towards the achievement of the objectives set out therein.

4. The Commission had endorsed the specific criteria and detailed submission requirements for the comprehensive review to be carried out by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators in 2025. The Commission had also endorsed the recommendations for the update of the 2008 System of National Accounts, except for the recommendation about marketing assets. The Commission had confirmed its readiness to provide technical support for a political process to define

measures beyond gross domestic product. The Commission had requested the Statistics Division to prepare a draft resolution to launch the 2030 World Population and Housing Census Programme at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission and had expressed its appreciation to the Division for the preparations for the 2030 round of censuses and for the ongoing work on the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*.

5. In addition, the Commission had taken decisions on cross-cutting issues such as the fundamental principles of official statistics, international statistical classifications, data science and the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and on important topics such as agricultural and rural statistics, environmental and economic accounting, tourism statistics and climate change statistics.

Draft resolution entitled “An inclusive and representative Statistical Commission to leave no one behind”

6. **The President** drew attention to the draft resolution entitled “An inclusive and representative Statistical Commission to leave no one behind”, contained in chapter I of the report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-fifth session (E/2024/24).

7. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

Draft decision entitled “Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-fifth session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission”

8. **The President** drew attention to the draft decision entitled “Report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-fifth session and provisional agenda and dates of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission”, contained in chapter I of the report of the Statistical Commission on its fifty-fifth session (E/2024/24).

9. *The draft decision was adopted.*

10. **Ms. Botero** (Colombia) said that her delegation welcomed the Council’s decision to adopt the draft resolution and thus increase the number of members of the Commission. In its work, the Commission had traditionally promoted inclusivity and the involvement of a wide range of actors. The increase in the number of members was thus a natural step that would further increase the impact of the Commission’s discussions and decisions. The Commission played a key role in building the capacities of national statistical offices and developing universal standards and principles for the production, management and use of data. The expertise of the Commission was increasingly important for

intergovernmental processes such as the development of measures that went beyond gross domestic product and the Multidimensional Poverty Index.

(a) Sustainable development (E/2024/33)

11. **Ms. Fukuda-Parr** (Chair of the Committee for Development Policy), speaking via video link, introducing the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twenty-sixth session (E/2024/33), said that technological innovation could be a key driver of sustainable development by increasing productivity, empowering people, promoting inclusion, facilitating structural change for the least developed countries and building resilience against crises. However, such potential remained vastly underused, particularly in developing countries, and an effective innovation ecosystem was therefore required.

12. Governments and international bodies needed to reassess their policy frameworks and priorities for innovation to ensure that they responded to the challenges of the new global environment, including the rise of financialization and intangible assets, the advance of the fourth industrial revolution, demographic shifts and climate change. Developing countries required policy frameworks for innovation that were tailored to their specific priorities. There was considerable scope for making more effective use of existing policy space to pursue priorities for development, equity and productive capacity, and international organizations and bilateral donors could strengthen their support for efforts to that end. The global system for supporting innovation for development needed to be made fit for purpose to ensure innovation for global and regional public goods.

13. As part of its continued commitment to contributing to the voluntary national review process, the Committee had issued, on 13 February 2024, a communiqué in which it had outlined a new approach to the process that would be more focused on key lessons and give greater attention to the core transformative elements of the 2030 Agenda.

14. At the conclusion of its triennial review of the list of least developed countries in 2024, the Committee had recommended three countries for graduation and had deferred its decision on a possible recommendation for graduation of two other countries to the 2027 triennial review. The Committee had found that three countries had met the criteria for graduation for the first time, while three countries that had previously met the criteria no longer did so. The Committee had reviewed the progress of seven graduating and recently graduated countries in line with its enhanced monitoring

mechanism. While consistent progress had been made towards graduation, most of those countries had limited capacities to address global crises, geopolitical tensions and climate change.

15. Global shocks were posing significant challenges to graduating countries and hindering the graduation process for all least developed countries. The challenging global context required the existing graduation framework to be updated. Current international support for graduation processes was insufficient. The Committee called for the rapid operationalization of the new Sustainable Graduation Support Facility (iGRAD). The Committee looked forward to contributing to efforts to update the existing resolutions on smooth transition from the least developed country category.

16. The Committee considered its thematic analysis and working methods to be in line with the recommendations from the review of the work of the Council's functional commissions and expert bodies. The Committee would continue to give briefings to and hold interactive sessions with the Council and would welcome additional opportunities to engage with the Council, its subsidiary bodies and other stakeholders.

17. **Mr. Luemba** (Observer for Angola) said that, in 2023, his Government had initiated consultations with the Committee for Development Policy regarding the process of graduating from the least developed country category following the Committee's activation of the enhanced monitoring mechanism in accordance with paragraph 284 of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. In its report, the Committee had stated that Angola no longer met the criteria for graduation and that the graduation process would recommence when Angola met the criteria for graduation again at a future triennial review. The economic landscape of Angola was marred by the decline of oil production, high inflation, currency devaluation and limited production capacity. External factors such as volatile international oil prices and the adverse effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic were also exacerbating the country's development challenges.

18. The graduation of Angola from the category of least developed countries should be sustainable and should not result in disruption to its development plans, programmes and projects. His Government was working to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of its long-term strategy for the period up to 2050 and related national development plans, which would enable Angola to reach the level of development acceptable for graduation, and to strengthen exchanges with the

Committee and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

19. **Ms. Fukuda-Parr** (Chair of the Committee for Development Policy), speaking via video link, said that the Committee fully recognized the complexity of the situations faced by Angola and the efforts that it was making to meet the criteria for graduation in the future.

Agenda item 12: Coordination, programme and other questions

(c) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2024/58; E/2024/L.10)

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (continued)

(i) Women and development

Agenda item 19: Social and human rights questions

(a) Advancement of women (A/79/38 and E/2024/27)

20. **Ms. Gumbonzvanda** (Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, United Nations System Coordination and Programme Results of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2024/58) said that, following an independent review of the capacity of the United Nations system to deliver on gender equality, the Secretary-General had launched the United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan, calling for a norms-based approach to guide the efforts of the United Nations to support women and girls, renewed accountability mechanisms, the transformation of internal power dynamics and leadership approaches, and measures to address pervasive underresourcing of gender equality.

21. Gender equality had been promoted across the United Nations system through policies, guidance notes, standards and procedures. The gender marker had been used by 39 United Nations entities and 91 United Nations country teams in setting financial targets to ensure adequate investment in gender equality. Resident coordinators and United Nations country teams had been supported by the Development Coordination Office in integrating gender into development planning and programming. Gender perspectives had been integrated into humanitarian response plans, the mandates of peacekeeping missions and reporting on

human rights violations in country operations and international investigative bodies.

22. In 2023, 74 entities, including the Secretariat, had implemented the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and 97 country teams had reported on the implementation of the United Nations country team System-wide Action Plan gender equality scorecard, marking an annual increase of 28 per cent. Of those country teams, 20 had completed a comprehensive assessment in line with their cooperation framework and 77 had submitted annual progress reports.

23. Despite those encouraging figures, gender mainstreaming continued to be limited by the lack of robust gender analysis and sex-disaggregated data, underresourced gender units, insufficient capacity-building and unsustainable funding. The report contained a range of recommendations aimed at accelerating gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, leveraging the momentum of the United Nations System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan. The Council's role in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming remained vital.

24. **Mr. Lagdameo** (Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women), introducing the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-eighth session (E/2024/27), said that the priority theme of the Commission's sixty-eighth session had been "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective". In its agreed conclusions, the Commission had called for action by Governments and other stakeholders in integrating a gender perspective into financing for development commitments, implementing gender-responsive economic and social policies, expanding the fiscal space for investments to end poverty for women and girls, fostering new development strategies towards sustainable economies and societies, engaging with and financing women's organizations and collectives, and enhancing multidimensional poverty data and statistics.

25. Record in-person attendance had been reached at the Commission's sixty-eighth session, with nearly 9,000 participants, including representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations system and civil society organizations, and young people. In the ministerial segment, two Heads of State, three Vice-Presidents, four Deputy Prime Ministers and 106 Ministers had participated. In four ministerial round tables, 101 ministers and senior

officials had exchanged experiences and discussed the way forward.

26. The Commission had considered the emerging issue of challenges and opportunities in using artificial intelligence to advance gender equality. During a review of progress on the agreed conclusions of the Commission's sixty-third session, 11 Member States had made voluntary presentations on targeted national efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals while leaving no woman or girl behind.

27. In 2025, the Commission would conduct a review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, taking the opportunity to take stock of progress, assess gaps and challenges, and recommit to the Platform for Action with a view to accelerating the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-ninth session of the Commission"

28. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposal contained in chapter I, section B of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixty-eighth session (E/2024/27). As it had not been possible for the Secretariat to provide advice on any potential programme budget implications on the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at the time of their adoption, the Secretariat had advised that it would provide advice to the Council before its consideration of the report of the Commission. The Council had subsequently been informed that the agreed conclusions contained no programme budget implications.

29. *The draft decision was adopted.*

30. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its eighty-fifth, eighty-sixth and eighty-seventh sessions (A/79/38) and suggested that the Council should take note of it.

31. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system" (E/2024/L.10)

32. **The President** drew attention to draft resolution E/2024/L.10, entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system", and said that it had no programme budget implications.

33. *The draft resolution was adopted.*

(b) Social development (E/2024/26 and A/79/61-E/2024/48)

34. **Ms. Ono** (Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (A/79/61-E/2024/48), said that, in view of the ageing of the global population, investments should be made in multigenerational living arrangements, family-based care systems for older persons and the provision of long-term care. In order to support fertility decisions and reduce maternal mortality, efforts should be made to ensure access to reproductive health services and family planning, especially in remote areas. The report contained an emphasis on the importance of promoting work-family balance and parental leave and childcare for working families.

35. Policies and programmes that strengthened and supported families helped to address challenges related to demographic shifts. Similarly, family-oriented policies and programmes led to improvements in the social and economic capital of individuals and communities. In view of challenges related to current demographic trends, a coordinated response was needed to develop stronger relationships and intergenerational solidarity within families and societies.

36. **Ms. Carlson** (Vice-Chair of the Commission for Social Development), introducing the report of the Commission for Social Development on its sixty-second session (E/2024/26), said that the Commission had deliberated on matters related to the session's theme, "Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication" as well as those related to the emerging issue of the influence of digital transformation on inclusive growth and development.

37. Six panel discussions had been convened during the session, at which Member States had emphasized the importance of embracing a rights-based approach to social development; breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty; strengthening policies on work-family balance; and closing digital divides through technology transfers and technical assistance. Peace and security had been underscored as fundamental prerequisites for sustainable development and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. A draft resolution on the priority theme had been adopted in which the Commission invited Member States to mobilize innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health, education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection. In another draft resolution, on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Commission noted that net bilateral official development assistance flows from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee to Africa in 2022 had decreased in real terms compared with 2021. In a new resolution on promoting care and support systems for social development, the Commission urged States to ensure the creation of enabling environments for promoting care and support systems for social development.

Action on recommendations contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its sixty-second session (E/2024/26)

39. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report.

Section A

Draft resolution I: Promoting care and support systems for social development

Draft resolution II: Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Draft resolution III: Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication

40. *Draft resolutions I, II and III were adopted.*

Section B

Draft decision I: Priority theme of the sixty-third session of the Commission for Social Development

Draft decision II: Report of the Commission for Social Development on its sixty-second session and provisional agenda of and documentation for the sixty-third session

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

Section C

Draft decision 62/101: Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

42. *Draft decision 62/101 was adopted.*

Agenda item 10: The role of the United Nations system in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development into the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/2024/49 and A/79/73-E/2024/50)

Agenda item 13: Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B, 60/265, 61/16, 67/290, 68/1, 72/305 and 75/290 A and B

43. **Ms. Mokhtar** (Chair of UN-Nutrition and Deputy Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency), in a pre-recorded video statement, introducing the report of UN-Nutrition, transmitted in a note of the Secretary-General (E/2024/49), said that, in 2023, UN-Nutrition member agencies had stepped up their efforts to support countries with coherent and harmonized policies and approaches for strengthened nutrition action. In addition, the agencies comprising UN-Nutrition had deployed joint advocacy for nutrition action and had created space for countries to influence global action in that regard. Such feedback loops between global and country processes improved the effectiveness of UN-Nutrition.

44. UN-Nutrition had engaged in the United Nations Food Systems Summit follow-up processes. It was advancing the work of the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition and, at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, had advocated for healthy diets from sustainable food systems for nurturing people and planet. UN-Nutrition had launched a website and a knowledge hub that featured more than 300 publications and 50 tools for policy and programming support.

45. Joint work continued. Priorities included the promotion of healthy diets from sustainable food systems in fragile and conflict-affected States; the promotion of good governance for nutrition at all levels; and fostering conflict-of-interest-free private-sector engagement. In the future, UN-Nutrition would continue its advocacy on those issues and seize opportunities for greater joint impact. UN-Nutrition stood ready to facilitate dialogue on the extension of the United Nations Decade of Action

on Nutrition (2016–2025) and the deadline for achieving the global nutrition targets adopted by the 2012 World Health Assembly.

46. **Ms. Reid** (Vice-Chair of the Committee on World Food Security), speaking via video link, introducing the main decisions, outcomes and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security, transmitted in a note of the Secretary-General (A/79/73-E/2024/50), said that, at its fifty-first session the Committee had discussed *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023*, a joint publication which highlighted that the world was not on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2. Shocks and disruptions arising from conflict, climate change and economic contraction, in combination with growing inequalities, continued to challenge the capacity of agrifood systems to deliver nutritious, safe and affordable diets for all.

47. The Committee had stressed the need to refrain from using food and water as weapons of war in conflict areas and had advocated reliable, sufficient and unhindered access to essential goods and services for civilians in conflict areas. It had also stressed the role of United Nations agencies and other relevant bodies to address the impact of conflict on food security.

48. Committee members had endorsed voluntary guidelines on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition, which guided members in supporting the implementation of national policies to tackle gender inequalities. The Committee requested that the General Assembly, through the Council, consider and ensure the wide dissemination of those guidelines to all relevant United Nations entities, including the Commission on the Status of Women.

49. The Committee members had also endorsed policy recommendations on strengthening the collection and use of food security and nutrition data and related analysis tools to improve decision-making in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. Furthermore, the Committee had made significant progress on elaborating a clear vision towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and the achievement of Goal 2 through the endorsement of its programme of work for the period 2024–2027, which would assist in fostering resilience to shocks and strengthening collaborative action for food security and nutrition.

Agenda item 17: Non-governmental organizations
(continued) (E/2024/32 (Part I))

Action on the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2024 session (E/2024/32 (Part I))

50. **The President** drew attention to the draft decisions contained in chapter I of the report.

Draft decision I: Applications for consultative status, requests for a change of name and quadrennial reports received from non-governmental organizations

Draft decision II: Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2024 regular session

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

Agenda item 11: Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits
(continued)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (E/FFDF/2024/3)

52. **Ms. Botero** (Colombia) said that negotiations held in the various bodies of the Council should contribute to the implementation of 2030 Agenda, which provided the basis for consensus on sustainable development. In that context, her delegation regretted that, for the first time, the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations negotiated at the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up had been adopted by a vote, because of differences over the language contained in the 2030 Agenda. Colombia highlighted the importance of the forum's outcome document in outlining a vision of progressive financing for development and in informing the negotiations of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in 2025.

53. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposal contained in section I of the report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (E/FFDF/2024/3). He took it that the Council wished to transmit the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum on financing for development follow-up to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council.

54. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 18: Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(d) Environment (A/79/25)

55. **Mr. Ahmad** (Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme), introducing the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on its sixth session (A/79/25), said that participants at the Environment Assembly had discussed the need for more data-sharing and collaboration among environmental leaders to address challenges such as biodiversity loss and pollution; how to align public and private finance with global goals for climate change, nature loss, pollution and the Sustainable Development Goals; and how to bolster the effectiveness of environmental multilateralism. A multi-stakeholder dialogue had been held on inclusive, fit-for-purpose multilateralism for the environment.

56. The Environment Assembly had adopted 15 resolutions aimed at boosting multilateral efforts to address climate change, nature loss and pollution. In a ministerial declaration, Member States had affirmed their commitment to slowing climate change, restoring and protecting biodiversity, creating a pollution-free world and confronting land degradation, drought and deforestation through multilateral action.

57. To fully utilize the existing institutional links between the Environment Assembly, the Council and the high-level political forum, Member States might wish, *inter alia*, to welcome the ministerial declaration of the Environment Assembly at its sixth session on effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions for tackling climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution; consider aspects of the various resolutions adopted by the Environment Assembly at its sixth session that were relevant for providing input into policy recommendations to the high-level political forum; acknowledge the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste; recognize the growing demand for stronger and more coherent environmental support at the country level; take note of the call addressed to the United Nations Environmental Programme to intensify its support and assistance to Member States in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the 2030 Agenda; reaffirm the need to ensure the sustainability, predictability and stability of funding to the United Nations Environmental Programme; and include in the provisional agenda of the eighty-first session of the General Assembly, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a sub-item entitled “Report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations

Environment Programme” in order to consider the outcomes of the Environment Assembly at its seventh session.

58. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on its sixth session (A/79/25).

59. *It was so decided.*

(k) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

60. **The President** said that no advance documentation had been submitted under agenda item 18 (k) and no draft proposal was before the Council.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.