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49. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership at its fifty-third session;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011, 66/286 of 23 July 2012 and 67/294 of 15 August 2013, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", to submit to the Commission for Social Development, for its consideration at its fifty-third session, a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership, including, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, an overview of current processes related to social development in Africa, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies while preserving the social dimensions of the New Partnership.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/4 (see above), the Secretary-General submitted a November report [E/CN.5/2015/2] on the social dimension of NEPAD, highlighting progress made in eradicating poverty and hunger, creating jobs, improving education and health outcomes, promoting gender equality, boosting agricultural productivity, investing in infrastructure, improving governance and mobilizing resources for inclusive development.

Despite having 11 of the top 20 fastest-growing economies in the world, African countries still had much more to do to achieve broadly shared prosperity and to reduce poverty and inequality. Estimates of global poverty released in October by the World Bank showed that about 39.6 per cent of Africa's population (437.1 million people) lived on less than \$1.25 a day compared with 46.6 per cent (295.8 million people) in 1990, indicating that, despite a collective effort, Africa would not halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. The number of hungry people in Africa increased from 217 million in the period 2008–2010 to 227 million in 2012–2014, a time period when the number of undernourished people in the world declined from 840 million to 805 million. Sub-Saharan Africa had become home to more than a quarter of the world's undernourished people. The situation in North Africa remained positive, however, the number of food-insecure people in the Sahel region had risen, from 11.3 million in 2013 to 20 million in 2014.

The total unemployment rate in sub-Saharan Africa had slightly declined, from 7.7 per cent in 2009 to 7.6 per cent in 2014. There were no improvements in unemployment levels among women; in both 2009 and 2014, the rate was 8.4 per cent. Youth unemploy-

ment levels also remained elevated despite the fact that an estimated 11 million young people were expected to join the job market every year for the next decade in sub-Saharan Africa alone. In the Middle East and North Africa, the unemployment rate increased from 10.4 per cent in 2009 to 11.5 per cent in 2014.

Progress had been made across Africa in increasing enrolment of children in school. Primary enrolment more than doubled between 1990 and 2012, from 62 million to 149 million in sub-Saharan Africa, with a net enrolment rate increasing from 52 per cent in 1990 to 78 per cent in 2012, while North Africa had almost achieved universal primary education, with a net enrolment rate of 99 per cent in 2012 compared with 90 per cent in 2000.

There had been significant improvements in child immunization rates, and the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapies. The number of child and maternal deaths and deaths owing to malaria and HIV/AIDS had also been reduced. Nonetheless, sub-Saharan Africa still had the highest maternal mortality ratio in the world.

In 2014, 20 per cent of seats in African national parliaments were held by women. Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles and South Africa were among the top 10 countries in the world with the highest percentage of women parliamentarians. The percentage of women parliamentarians ranged from 41 per cent in South Africa to 64 per cent in Rwanda. Despite the obvious gains to society from the empowerment of women, progress was being hampered by widening inequalities, disproportionately high levels of unemployment among women, as well as gender-based violence and exploitation.

To promote effective and accountable governance, 34 more countries had acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism. Seventeen countries had completed their self-assessments and had been peer-reviewed. In mobilizing finances for inclusive development, total collected tax revenue in Africa increased from \$137.5 billion in 2000 to a record \$527.3 billion in 2012; however, greater efforts were also required to curb illicit financial flows connected to trade mispricing, tax evasion, corruption and other illegal activities that were costing Africa an estimated \$50 billion a year.

The Secretary-General recommended the Commission for Social Development encourage African countries and their development partners to promote policies that foster agricultural transformation, including meeting the commitments on agriculture contained in the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security; promote industrial policies that create diversified economies and contribute to poverty eradication and social inclusion through job creation; reduce inequality and vulnerability by implementing basic social protection floors

and expand opportunities available to disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups; promote gender perspective across policies and programmes; prioritize investments in health care; encourage the international community to honour existing aid commitments, provide debt relief and make predictable disbursements of ODA; and set bold domestic resource mobilization targets for the implementation of national and regional development programmes.

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on NEPAD: progress in implementation and international support would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

### African countries emerging from conflict

**Report of Secretary-General.** In October [E/2014/94], the Secretary-General presented his third report to the Economic and Social Council on integrated, coherent and coordinated support to the Government of South Sudan following the country's independence in July 2011. The report reviewed major developments in South Sudan since July 2013, with a focus on the political crisis that erupted into violence in December. It also described the impact of the conflict on prospects for development and some of the key actions taken by the international community, including the United Nations system, to help the country to end the conflict so that development could be resumed.

A political crisis that led to a violent conflict had reversed much of the progress of the past two years. A crisis of governance within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) led to armed violence on 15 December 2013. A leadership struggle within SPLM rapidly deteriorated into armed conflict, causing significant loss of life and large-scale displacement, with an estimated 1.3 million people internally displaced in more than 100 locations, 100,000 of whom sought protection at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) bases. In addition, nearly 450,000 people fled to neighbouring countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda.

Since the onset of the crisis, UNMISS had to put its State-building and peacebuilding activities on hold. As the crisis persisted in May, the Security Council (see p. 000) revised the UNMISS mandate to focus on four priority areas: protection of civilians; human rights monitoring and reporting; creating the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and supporting the cessation of hostilities agreement. With respect to humanitarian assistance and protection, the Emergency Relief Coordinator declared a three-month Standing Committee system-wide level-three emergency response to the escalating conflict in South

Sudan in February, subsequently extended by an additional six months until November.

The conflict had further undermined the prospects for future growth. The most immediate impact had been on oil production. Financing nearly 80 per cent of the Government's overall budget, oil provided 98 per cent of public sector revenue, contributed 60 per cent to gross domestic product and to almost all foreign exchange earnings, thus making the South Sudanese economy highly vulnerable to changes in oil prices and oil production levels. The conflict led to the shutdown of operations of some oil fields and the partial shutdown of others, leading to oil production at less than half of the 350,000 barrels per day at the time of independence.

As at the time of reporting, approximately 57 per cent of children and adolescents in South Sudan did not attend school. There were high levels of dropouts and delayed entry: 75 per cent of 6-year-olds were not in school and 92 per cent of grade 8 students were overage. The percentage was much higher in conflict-affected states, where children were prevented from attending school as a result of insecurity, displacement or schools' occupation by armed forces. It was estimated that only 5 to 10 per cent of about 1,130 primary schools in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States were functioning.

The Secretary-General noted that while a cessation of hostilities agreement had been signed and a commitment made to work on the formation of a transitional Government, both sides continued to pursue a military solution. No concrete evidence had yet emerged that the political will existed to meet the commitments made under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-led mediation. Given the unique peace, security, peacebuilding and development challenges facing South Sudan, the integrated United Nations support being provided at the technical and operational levels should be complemented by strong, integrated policy support and guidance at the intergovernmental level by all relevant United Nations organs and bodies, within their respective mandates and competencies.

On 18 November (**decision 2014/256**), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report and requested that another report on the subject be submitted to the Council at its substantive session in 2015.

### Other economic assistance

On 29 December (**decision 69/554**), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on special economic assistance to individual countries and regions would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

## Haiti

**Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group.** In October [E/2014/95], following its visit to Washington, D.C., of 28 April, and to Haiti, from 12 to 15 May, the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti presented its tenth report since its reactivation in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 939].

The Group welcomed the progress observed in Haiti on the economic and social fronts, which went well beyond post-earthquake recovery efforts. It also expressed concerns on the sustainability of the development process in the then political context. The Group emphasized the need for continued donor engagement given the high vulnerability of the country, in terms of both natural disasters and economic shocks, and the need to sustain the development progress that had been achieved. The Group also advocated a “Delivering as one” approach to guide UN action on the ground. With a growth rate of 4.3 per cent in 2013, Haiti had reached a new phase in its development process. The overall objective of the strategic plan for the development of Haiti formulated by the Government for the period 2010–2030 was for Haiti to become an emerging country within 15 years. Although that required massive investments and a marked increase in the average income of the population, progress suggested that Haiti had embarked on a path that could bring it closer to that ambitious goal if progress was sustained and Haiti did not relapse into political turmoil.

Some social progress was also observed. It was estimated that poverty decreased by 4 to 5 per cent in urban areas, although inequality remained high. Extreme poverty had declined from 31 per cent to 24 per cent since 2000, and some targets had been reached ahead of the deadline, such as the reduction by half in the number of underweight children.

At the political level, the inter-Haitian political dialogue took several steps forward. Following the political agreement known as the El Rancho accord, the Cabinet was reshuffled and the Chamber of Deputies adopted an electoral law. Although the process had not eased political tensions, the fact that political parties were holding a dialogue, with the support of civil society actors, was a step in the right direction in building the capacity to devise collective solutions.

On the humanitarian front, some 90,000 displaced persons lived in camps, a sharp decrease compared with 1.3 million following the 2010 earthquake. Living conditions, in particular the sanitary situation, were extremely poor. In spite of training and awareness-raising activities implemented by the International Organization for Migration and others, the national and international presence in those camps did not appear as being commensurate with the needs of the population. The Group therefore

called for continued humanitarian assistance and a high level of support to the Haitian National Police.

To sustain the development process, the Group encouraged Haiti’s development partners to take proactive steps to ensure that support was in line with the priorities and programmes set by the Government, as contained in the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti and the triennial investment plans; to simplify disbursement procedures in order to accelerate project implementation; and to provide continued support to the national police and its development plan for the period 2012–2016.

The UN system was called on to plan for a smooth transition process in relation to the consolidation of United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in such a way as to secure continued assistance by the UN system in peacebuilding-related areas; to consider how the United Nations could best support peacebuilding efforts in Haiti, including through the possible involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission, if requested by Haiti; and to assert its role as a promoter of aid effectiveness by providing secretariat support to the Group of Twelve Plus.

The Group also called on the Haitian authorities to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the senatorial, municipal and local elections were held without further delay; to enforce the new law against corruption; and to invest in the strengthening of the national police, the judiciary, the penitentiary system and institutions geared towards embedding the rule of law in Haiti.

**Communications.** In letters dated 19 December 2013 [E/2014/8] from Argentina, 31 March 2014 [E/2014/54] from Colombia, and 13 May from Uruguay [E/2014/73], Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay expressed their wishes to become members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. On 30 January (**decision 2014/207**) and 23 April (**decision 2014/210**), the Economic and Social Council decided to appoint Argentina and Colombia as members, and on 13 June (**decision 2014/221**), it further appointed Uruguay as a member of the Group.

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 18 November [meeting 52], the Economic and Social Council adopted **resolution 2014/37** [E/2014/L.34] without vote [agenda item 10 (d)].

### Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005, 2006/10 of 26 July 2006, 2007/13 of 25 July 2007, 2008/10 of 23 July 2008, 2009/4 of 23 July 2009, 2010/28 of 23 July 2010, 2012/21 of 26 July 2012 and 2013/15 of 23 July 2013 and its decisions 2004/322 of 11 November 2004, 2009/211 of 20 April 2009, 2009/267 of 15 December 2009, 2011/207 of 17 February 2011,

2011/211 of 26 April 2011, 2011/268 of 28 July 2011, 2013/209 of 15 February 2013, 2014/207 of 30 January 2014, 2014/210 of 23 April 2014 and 2014/221 of 13 June 2014,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recognizes* that political stability and socioeconomic recovery are essential to the long-term development of Haiti, and welcomes the efforts of the United Nations and the international community in both fields;

3. *Commends* the continued progress in the economic and social situation in Haiti since the devastating earthquake of January 2010 and congratulates the Haitian authorities and all Haitian development actors on their work in that regard, and looks forward to continued support from donors and other partners, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions;

4. *Calls upon* donors to remain engaged in support of the reconstruction and development of Haiti, in line with priorities set by the Government of Haiti, and calls upon the Haitian authorities and international partners to take an active part in the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti with a view to making full use of its potential for effective international support;

5. *Recognizes* the External Aid Coordination Framework, established as a platform to strengthen mutual accountability and coordination under the leadership of the Haitian authorities with the support of the donor community;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of Haiti to fully operationalize the External Aid Coordination Framework and its mechanisms in keeping with the road map adopted in 2014, and calls upon the development partners of Haiti and the United Nations system to play an active role in donor coordination mechanisms in order to better coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of aid and the impact of development cooperation;

7. *Encourages* donors to continue funding humanitarian activities, with a view, inter alia, to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, including those still living in camps, and to improve the sanitation and health sectors;

8. *Invites* donors to align their efforts with the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti as well as other national activities to prevent waterborne diseases, and to provide the financial resources necessary for their implementation;

9. *Calls upon* the Haitian authorities to take all the steps necessary to ensure the regular functioning of public institutions, and calls upon all the political actors in Haiti to work cooperatively and without further delay to ensure the holding of overdue legislative and local elections so that legitimate, credible and well-functioning authorities are in place to contribute to the recovery and development process, and to continue to interact with development partners in a constructive manner;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system in Haiti to review its integrated strategic framework with a view to promoting appropriate approaches to consolidated planning, fundraising and programme implementation, and calls for a smooth transition process in order to ensure continued assistance by the United Nations system, including in peacebuilding and related areas, such as governance, institution-building and human rights issues;

11. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the conclusion of the 2015 session, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

12. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Advisory Group, and requests him to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources;

13. *Requests* the Advisory Group, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and institutions, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community, the Union of South American Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank, and other major stakeholders, and in this regard welcomes the continuation of the dialogue between the members of the Advisory Group and the Organization of American States;

14. *Also requests* the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its 2015 session.

## Kazakhstan

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 66/193 [YUN 2011, p. 901], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/257] on the status of the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan and the progress made in accelerating development between 2011 and 2013, through programmes and actions organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and the international community, including United Nations agencies. The Semipalatinsk test site, also known as “the Polygon”, was the primary nuclear test site of the former Soviet Union. In total, 456 nuclear tests were conducted between 1949 and 1989 at Semipalatinsk, including 340 underground and 116 atmospheric explosions. Altogether, nuclear explosions at Semipalatinsk were the equivalent of over 2,500 Hiroshima bombs. The former Soviet Union had other nuclear test sites, but this was the only one close to major settlements. The resulting fallout from such tests severely affected the ecosystems of the region and the traditional way of life of its inhabitants. The site was closed on 29 August 1991, a date designated by the General Assembly in 2009 as the International Day against Nuclear Tests.

The Government of Kazakhstan, with the assistance of donors and the direct involvement of UN agencies, had carried out a considerable amount of work in the Semipalatinsk region over recent years. Numerous projects in the socioeconomic sphere and in the areas of environment, public health and education had been implemented. However, a lot remained to be done. More investment would be required in human development over the coming years, in order to ensure a stable pattern of development and growth for the region. To achieve that objective, governmental and international efforts, inter alia, would focus on improving mother and child primary health-care services, and child and youth protection mechanisms; strengthening the capacity of local authorities, particularly in rural areas, in the use of evidence-based decision-making; promoting community awareness of the equal rights of vulnerable groups; and increasing the efficiency of the use of State resources in socioeconomic programmes at the local level.

The Secretary-General called on the international community to support the joint work of the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations by enhancing the social inclusion of vulnerable groups in the region, with the aim of reducing their stigmatization and isolation and promoting their integration into the community; and by strengthening coordination to plan, implement and monitor inclusive regional social programmes and services.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 69/209** [A/69/468 & Corr.1] without vote [agenda item 19].

#### **International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 52/169 M of 16 December 1997, 53/1 H of 16 November 1998, 55/44 of 27 November 2000, 57/101 of 25 November 2002, 60/216 of 22 December 2005, 63/279 of 24 April 2009 and 66/193 of 22 December 2011,

*Recognizing* that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to the long-term consequences of its activity for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

*Taking into account* the fact that a number of international programmes in the Semipalatinsk region have been completed since the closure of the nuclear testing ground, but that serious social, economic and ecological problems continue to exist,

*Taking into consideration* the results of the International Conference on Semipalatinsk, held in Tokyo on 6 and

7 September 1999, which have promoted the effectiveness of the assistance provided to the population of the region,

*Acknowledging* the progress made towards accelerating the development of the Semipalatinsk region during the period from 2011 to 2013, through programmes and actions of the Government of Kazakhstan and the international community, including United Nations agencies,

*Recognizing* the important role of national development policies and strategies in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

*Recognizing also* the challenges that Kazakhstan faces in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular in the context of the efforts by the Government of Kazakhstan to ensure the effective and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with regard to health care and environmental sustainability,

*Recognizing further* that the Government of Kazakhstan may call upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan to render assistance in conducting consultations for establishing a multi-stakeholder mechanism, with the participation of various government bodies, local governments, civil society, the donor community and international organizations, to improve governance and enable the more efficient use of resources allocated for the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular regarding the areas of radiation safety, socioeconomic development and health and environmental protection, and for the provision of information on risks to the population,

*Emphasizing* the importance of support by donor States and international development organizations for the efforts of Kazakhstan to improve the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region and the need for the international community to continue to pay due attention to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

*Taking note* of the need to utilize modern technologies to minimize and mitigate radiological, health, socioeconomic, psychological and environmental challenges in the Semipalatinsk region,

*Considering* the importance of cooperation with the United Nations in establishing a coherent framework for coordination in addressing the needs of the region to introduce innovative approaches to regional planning and social assistance to the population of the Semipalatinsk region, especially its most vulnerable groups, aimed at improving its quality of life,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the new development-oriented approach in tackling problems in the Semipalatinsk region in the medium to long term,

*Expressing appreciation* to donor countries and organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and related organizations mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General for their contribution to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 66/193 and the information contained therein on measures taken to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems in the Semipalatinsk region;

2. *Welcomes and recognizes* the important role of the Government of Kazakhstan in providing domestic resources to help meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, imple-

menting measures for optimizing public administration of the territory and facilities of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and surrounding areas, ensuring radiation safety and environmental rehabilitation and reintegrating the use of the nuclear test site into the national economy;

3. *Urges* the international community to provide assistance to Kazakhstan in formulating and implementing special programmes and projects for the treatment and care of the affected population, as well as in efforts to ensure economic growth and sustainable development in the Semipalatinsk region, including increasing the effectiveness of existing programmes;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including academia and non-governmental organizations, to share knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue pursuing a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing and coordinating the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in his report;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.