

Oral statement by the Secretariat in connection with draft resolution E/2020/L.8 entitled "Further revised working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council and sessions of its subsidiary bodies"

1. This statement is made in accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of draft resolution E/2020/L.8, the Council would:

(a) Decide to further adjust the working arrangements for the 2020 session of the Economic and Social Council, for meetings scheduled to be held in June and July, as follows:

(i) The following meetings of the Council will be held as informal meetings through the use of a virtual platform:

(1) Informal meeting of the forum on financing for development follow-up on "Financing a sustainable recovery from COVID-19" (Tuesday, 2 June 2020);

(2) Management segment meeting(s) (Wednesday, 3 June 2020);

(3) Economic and Social Council event to discuss the transition from relief to development (Monday, 8 June 2020); and

(4) The humanitarian affairs segment (Tuesday, 9 June, to Thursday, 11 June 2020).

(ii) The dedicated management meeting to fill remaining vacancies in subsidiary bodies of the Council and related bodies for which secret balloting is required will be held as soon as feasible when conditions allow for the convening of an in-person meeting of the Council at United Nations headquarters;

(iii) The following meetings and forums of the Council will be held on the dates as decided in resolution 2020/1, in an adjusted format, as applicable, with final modalities to be decided by the Bureau of the Council, following consultations with Member States, taking into

account the possibility of meeting at United Nations Headquarters in July and the availability of conference services, as follows:

(1) A further meeting of the operational activities for development segment will be held, with the timing and modalities to be decided by the Bureau of the Council;

(2) The integration segment (Monday, 6 July 2020);

(3) The high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, (Tuesday, 7 July, to Monday, 13 July 2020); and

(4) The high-level segment of the Council, including the three-day ministerial segment of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council (Tuesday, 14 July, to Friday, 17 July 2020);

(5) The second set of meetings of the management segment (on 21 and 22 July 2020); and

(6) The organizational session regarding the programme of work of the Council from July 2020 to July 2021 (Thursday, 23 July 2020); and

(iv) The youth forum will be deferred to the 2021 session of the Council; and

(b) Further decide, following consultations with the Chairs of the bodies concerned, to adjust the working arrangements for subsidiary bodies of the Council meeting in New York, as follows:

(i) Should conditions allow the convening of in-person meetings at United Nations Headquarters and taking into account the availability of conference services, short procedural meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development will be held before 21 July on a date to be decided, in order to adopt procedural and other decisions. In case the convening of in-person meetings is not possible, these bodies may consider holding informal meetings using a virtual platform and should consider proposals for adoption through a silence procedure pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2020/206 of 22 May 2020;

(ii) The fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests will not hold a meeting during the 2020 session of the Council and will consider proposals through a silence procedure pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2020/206 of 22 May 2020;

(iii) Following consultations with the Chairs of the bodies concerned, the following meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Council, will be held as follows;

(1) The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters will hold informal meetings in June and July 2020 using a virtual platform and take decisions remotely through a procedure to be agreed by the Committee; and

(2) Should conditions allow the convening of in-person meetings at United Nations Headquarters and taking into account the availability of conference services, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations will, on an exceptional basis, hold part 2 of its 2020 session in August 2020, during the 2021 session of the Council.

3. With regard to operative paragraph 1 (c) of the draft resolution, upon a further decision by the Bureau of the Council on the dates and modalities of the meetings and forums of the Council as decided in resolution 2020/1, the Secretary-General would reassess the budgetary implications and advise the Council, in accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

4. With regard to operative paragraph 1 (d) of the draft resolution, upon a further decision of the Council on the working arrangements for its 2021 session and on the dates and modalities of the youth forum, the Secretary-General would reassess the budgetary implications and advise the Council, in accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council. Furthermore, in accordance with established practice, the dates of the forum would be determined in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

5. Accordingly, the adoption of the draft resolution would not entail any budgetary implications with regard to the programme budget.