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the Commission had — for the second time in the last three years — failed to achieve consensus on the draft resolution before it, she called on Member States to “open our hearts and minds” and strive harder to reach agreement in future sessions.

Other topics addressed today included follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations Forum on Forests and human settlements.

#### Public Administration and Development

JOSE CASTELAZO (Mexico), Committee of Experts on Public Administration, joining via video link from Mexico, presented the report of the Committee's sixteenth session from 24-28 April 2017 (document [E/2017/44-E/C.16/2017/8](#) (<http://undocs.org/E/2017/44>)). He said the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development continued to be at the centre of the

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added, stressing the need to eliminate discrimination and violence against them. He expressed concern about the major funding gap and spotlighted how support from the international community had played an essential role in providing treatment in his country. The fight against AIDS could not be won in isolation.

The representative of Ghana, speaking in her capacity as Chair of the UNAIDS Coordinating Board and on behalf of the United Kingdom, which served as its Vice-Chair, said the Secretary-General's report before the Council demonstrated the critical role of UNAIDS in positioning and coordinating the global HIV/AIDS response at the international level. Remarkable progress had been achieved against the backdrop of uncertainty regarding the Joint Programme's funding and future. By mid-2016 some 18.2 million people had been receiving antiretroviral treatment and the rates of new infection had fallen. The rate of new infections among children had been halved between 2010 and 2015. The 2015 UNAIDS "fast-track" strategy to end HIV/AIDS had been the first in the system to be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Nevertheless, she said, the epidemic was far from over, with 2.1 million new infections in 2015. Young women and girls were at particular risk, 40 per cent of those living with HIV were still unaware of their status and regional disparities in treatment were still prevalent. There was also a worrying decrease in the global funding response, with an annual investment gap of about \$7 billion. Encouraging donors to remain engaged in that respect, she said all those issues were captured in the text currently before the Council. The document reflected consensus across regional groups and struck a balance between welcoming strides made in the HIV/AIDS response, expressing concern about the critical challenges that remained and recommitting to ending the epidemic by 2030.

The United Kingdom's representative, also voicing his delegation's strong support to UNAIDS and to the text before the Council, expressed concern about the significant funding gap which had left 28 per cent of the 2016 UNAIDS core budget unfunded. Underscoring the need to reposition the Joint Programme in line with the 2030 Agenda and to equip it with the necessary resources to fulfil its mandate, he said the United Kingdom had recently approved a new five-year funding commitment to UNAIDS and called on other donors — both current and new — to do the same.

The representative of the United States agreed that it was critical for all partners to continue to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic, stressing that a shared responsibility and increased investment was needed in that regard. Pointing to insufficient progress in reducing new infections among young women and girls, as well as other remaining challenges, he encouraged UNAIDS to invite new donors from both the public and private sectors and urged Member States to scale up funding for the global response.

Turning to a draft resolution titled "Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS" (document E/2017/L.27), the Council adopted the text without a vote.

#### Adoption of the Agenda and Other Organizational Matters

The Council then approved requests from nine non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to be heard by the Council at the high-level segment of its 2017 session, as contained in document [E/2017/73](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/73) ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/73](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/73)).

#### Population and Development

ALYA AHMED SAIF AL-THANI (Qatar), Chair of the fiftieth session of the Commission on Population and Development, introduced the report of that session (document [E/2017/25](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/25) ([http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/25](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/25))) held on 15 April 2016 and 3-7 April 2017. Recalling that the session's theme had been "Changing population age structures and sustainable development", she said it had provided an occasion for the Commission to focus on Chapter VI of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development on population growth and age structure. Some participants had pointed to the long-term changes taking place in the age distribution of the world population, with broad consensus emerging on the importance of taking those shifts into account as Member States sought to implement the 2030 Agenda. States had, for the first time, shared their experiences through a "national voluntary presentations" segment, she said.

Despite extensive informal consultations, she went on, Member States had not reached consensus on all the issues addressed in a draft resolution before them. In the end, she had withdrawn her proposed text and received authorization from the Commission to prepare a summary of the deliberations, which was contained in the report being presented today.

Briefly outlining some of the main themes emerging from the

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