United Nations A/C.2/72/SR.6

General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Official Records

Distr.: General
31 October 2017

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 5 October 2017, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Jürgenson .... (Estonia)

Contents

17-17563 (E)

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

Agenda item 17: Macroeconomic policy questions

(a) International trade and development (A/72/307, A/72/274, A/72/15 (Part I), A/72/15 (Part II), A/72/15 (Part III), A/72/15 (Part IV), A/72/15 (Part V))

(b) International financial system and development (A/72/306)

(c) External debt sustainability and development (A/72/253)

(d) Commodities (A/72/254)

(e) Financial inclusion for sustainable development

(f) Promotion of international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows in order to foster sustainable development

Agenda item 18: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (A/72/114-E/2017/75)

1. **Mr. Ulianovschi** (President, Trade and Development Board, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)), introducing the reports of the Trade and Development Board (A/72/15 (Parts I–V)), said that collective action and solidarity were needed in the face of political, economic, social and environmental challenges in order to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The outcome document of the fourteenth session of UNCTAD, commonly referred to as the Nairobi Maafikiano, had taken the Conference from decisions to actions. One year later, the focus was on turning actions into results.

2. The Nairobi Maafikiano had strengthened the role of UNCTAD as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and for the integration of developing countries into the international economy. It had been agreed that sustainable development, and in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, should be the focus of trade strategies, and that trade should be closely coordinated with the policies and initiatives of other international organizations and United Nations agencies. Over the past year, progress had been made on implementation of the Nairobi mandate.

3. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on e-Commerce and the Digital Economy would hold their inaugural sessions in Geneva in 2017. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Financing for Development would aim to maximize synergies between the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery and the financing for development follow-up process, including the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, and would consider domestic public resource mobilization and international development cooperation. The Intergovernmental Group of Experts on e-Commerce and the Digital Economy would consider how to help developing countries benefit from that new source of trade and would contribute to UNCTAD work on the broader debate on the topic, including in the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Given the recognition by the Trade and Development Board that its annual session needed to better feed into the work of the General Assembly and following consultations with Member States, it had been decided to hold the next annual session in June 2018. That would allow the Board to consider the outcomes of the forum on financing for development follow-up, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Intergovernmental Groups of Experts at the high-level political forum on sustainable development prior to the next session of the General Assembly.

5. Discussions had been initiated with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on changes to reinvigorate the intergovernmental machinery in order to maximize the development role and impact of UNCTAD. In that regard, he sought the views and suggestions of Member States. He would also meet with United Nations officials and delegations.

6. Highlights from the annual session of the Trade and Development Board, held in September 2017, included a high-level dialogue on the theme, “Is the world integrating or disintegrating?” that focused on the need to strengthen regional integration. Deliberations on the topic, “Interdependence: inclusive growth — towards a global agenda” had focused on a review of the evolution of the world economy in 2016 and 2017 and recent trends in financial markets and flows. The debate on development strategies in a globalized world had addressed the fourth industrial revolution and macroeconomic aspects of gender issues, inclusive growth and globalization.

7. Views had been exchanged on the role of UNCTAD in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. Investing in youth, addressing the brain drain in Africa and intraregional

integration had been among the areas identified as crucial to accelerating progress on building productive capacity. A debate had been held on the contributions of UNCTAD to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.

8. With respect to investment and the digital economy, participants had noted that digitalization was transforming international production and global value chains, while panellists had highlighted that the sustainable development targets on connectivity were attainable. A report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people had been considered, with many delegations expressing deep concern at the worsening socioeconomic conditions in the Palestinian territory.

9. The discussion on economic development in Africa and tourism had highlighted the role of tourism in employment creation, the value of intraregional tourism for economic growth and the importance of peace and security to tourism development. Agreed conclusions were adopted on economic development in Africa and on the contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

10. **Mr. Trepelkov** (Director, Financing for Development Office, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the international financial system and development (A/72/306), said that international financial flows to developing countries had fallen in 2016 and were expected to fall further in 2017 and 2018, although a slowdown in outflows was expected. Those trends were primarily driven by outflows from the largest developing countries. Boom-bust patterns of capital flows had led to economic instability and made macroeconomic management more challenging.

11. While some reforms to the international financial regulatory system were proceeding well, others required more effort. Data on the sustainable development impacts of financial regulatory efforts was limited and efforts to include all dimensions of sustainable development in the reform agenda were in their infancy. New development banks were contributing resources to projects related to the Sustainable Development Goals. Traditional development banks were taking steps to optimize the use of their balance sheets, but still reported the need for capital increases amid record levels of exposure and a decline in donor contributions to concessional lending. The banks were monitoring their alignment with the Goals on gender equality, but often fell below their own targets on the gender results of their work. Women's participation in the economy, illicit financial flows, international investment agreements, global economic governance and other topics requested pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/215 were presented in the report in summary data or updates only, due to space constraints.

12. With respect to agenda item 18, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/217, on an exceptional basis, no report of the Secretary-General had been prepared. Member States had been provided with the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the forum on financing for development follow-up (A/72/114-E/2017/75). Other reference documents included the report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up (E/FFDF/2017/3), the note by the Secretary-General produced for the forum in March (E/FFDF/2017/2), and the full version and online annex of the 2017 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on *Financing for Development, Financing for Development: Progress and Prospects* (http://developmentfinance.un.org).

13. The Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had launched the preparatory process for the 2018 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force and its online annex, as well as the preparatory process for the 2018 forum on financing for development follow-up.

14. **Ms. Blankenburg** (Head of the Debt and Development Finance Branch, UNCTAD), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on external debt sustainability and development (A/72/253), said that, in the period from the global financial crisis until 2016, average ratios of debt to gross domestic product (GDP) for developing countries had remained relatively stable, although that indicator concealed a more worrying picture of increasing debt-to-export ratios and increases in debt service burdens. Averages varied considerably for different groups of developing countries and the figures were skewed by the inclusion of China in the data set, as indicated in paragraph 3 of the report.

15. At the time of drafting, the small island developing States had registered some of the worst debt indicators of any group. The situation had since deteriorated due to the devastation caused by recent hurricanes. There was an urgent need for coordinated creditor action to show solidarity during difficult times and reduce the debt burden for the most affected small island developing States in a timely and efficient manner.

16. Developments in the least developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa were also a cause of concern.

Increases in the ratio of debt service to exports and to government revenues were closely related to an increasingly difficult picture for commodities that was affecting developing countries more generally, in particular oil-exporting developing countries.

17. Although, in 2016, official development assistance (ODA) had reached the highest percentage of gross national income (GNI) since 2005, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent had, again, been missed. Only six donor countries had reached the agreed target. One of the key drivers in the increase in total ODA had been a surge in funds for settling refugees in donor countries.

18. Growing risks to debt sustainability abounded in a global economic environment marked by uncertainty, volatility, subdued global growth and disappointing global trade performance. Aside from China, all large emerging markets continued to register weak or negative growth while facing mounting private sector debt that was likely to pose systemic risks. The issues highlighted in the previous year's report remained, including low commodity prices, net negative capital flows to developing countries and debt compositions characterized by high and growing exposure to market and exchange rate risks that many developing countries were ill-equipped to manage. The continued deterioration of debt sustainability raised the question of whether short and procyclical credit booms were an appropriate source of financing for development; a new debt trap was in the making.

19. The report focused on three broad strands of policy initiatives to mitigate the situation: market-based debt instruments, in particular State-contingent debt instruments; "soft law" principles on responsible sovereign borrowing and lending; and new financing instruments for development. Proposals for blended finance and related new financial instruments to meet the growing financing requirements of development had implications for debt sustainability for developing countries; if not adequately managed, those financing requirements could deepen existing vulnerabilities. The report stressed the importance of debt management capacities in developing countries and the need to extend those capacities to subnational governments.

20. It was clear that the overall outlook on debt sustainability in developing countries was worsening. There was a danger of a growing mismatch between gradual market-based reforms of debt and financing instruments and the growing urgency of sovereign debt vulnerabilities in many developing countries. Options for immediate international policy coordination to enhance debt relief and even cancellation mechanisms should be considered. Finally, the need for improved debt data collection was urgent and should be systematically addressed. Further analysis and clear policy frameworks for the use of blended financing instruments and approaches to international development cooperation would be critical to ensuring adequate, stable, effective and productive finance for development, thereby mitigating debt vulnerabilities.

21. **Mr. Kim** (Economic Affairs Officer, Development Policy and Analysis Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries (A/72/307) said that 12 member States and three regional commissions had responded to the invitation by the Secretariat to provide views and any pertinent information on unilateral coercive economic measures. Supplementary information had been collected by the Secretariat. As on previous occasions, Member States had manifested their disagreement with the imposition of unilateral economic measures as an instrument of political and economic coercion and expressed concerns about their negative impact on the socioeconomic development of the affected countries. The regional commissions had concurred with that assessment and had indicated that unilateral sanctions adversely impacted the populations of affected countries, particularly the most vulnerable groups, and hampered trade flows and their potential contribution to development. The report indicated that the number of unilateral measures had been increasing in recent years and that such measures took diverse forms.

22. **Ms. Henderson** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on international trade and development (A/72/274) and the report of the Secretary-General on world commodity trends and prospects (A/72/254), said that over the past 20 years, the value of international trade had increased and the share of different forms of trade was changing to the extent that by 2020 it was expected that world trade would be split equally among trade conducted between developed countries, between developed and developing countries and as South-South trade.

23. Despite unprecedented global gains, trade slow down persisted. Commodity prices and macroeconomic factors could explain only part of the weakness of international trade; deeper structural shifts included the shortening of global value chains, while the benefits of innovation in information and communications technologies (ICT) were being exhausted. Trade equalization and regulatory harmonization had not progressed fast enough.

24. The weaknesses in international trade had major implications for the integration of poorer countries into the global economy and for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. Despite remarkable economic and social transformation in recent decades, trade and globalization met with negative reactions due to a lack of inclusiveness, which had scarcely been addressed. Positive dialogue and action were needed in that regard.

25. The multilateral trading system should be revitalized as a global public good and given new momentum and relevance. Despite stalemates at the World Trade Organization (WTO), specific deals had been achieved, such as the Trade Facilitation Agreement. Sustainable development must be integrated into trade policy and agreements, alongside technical assistance and capacity-building to help developing countries implement trade policies and institutional reforms. The forthcoming Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference would provide an important opportunity in that regard.

26. With respect to world commodity trends and prospects, she highlighted the information provided in the report, drawing attention to trends in the prices of non-oil commodities, food and agricultural commodities and minerals, ores and metals, as well as the collapse of the price of crude oil in 2014. The interactive dialogue on trends and prospects in commodities markets and their implications in commodity-dependent developing countries held in 2016 had focused on the importance and challenges of diversification with respect to commodity-dependent developing countries and the need for an integrated commodity policy. A key challenge to diversification was the lack of a one-size-fits-all strategy for export diversification. The lack of predictability in commodity prices implied that commodity dependent developing countries should urgently diversify their economies, according to their specific circumstances.

27. **Mr. Safaei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that it was clear that the roles of UNCTAD and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs needed to be strengthened. He asked for more information on best practices for regional integration.

28. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that the reallocation of long-term assets towards investments for the Sustainable Development Goals would clearly require incentives. He asked what impact regulatory changes had had on decisions by banks and other financial institutions to fund projects or make long-term investments of the type required by the Sustainable Development Goals.

29. **Mr. Ulianovschi** (President, Trade and Development Board, (UNCTAD) said that regional integration and best practices in the work of UNCTAD had been discussed at a high-level panel during the 2017 annual session of the Trade and Development Board. The conversation had largely focused on the African region and had addressed the establishment of broader cooperation on the facilitation and liberalization of trade and reducing barriers to trade, in particular by working with customs departments to ensure harmonization, a single-window system and automatic data sharing and data exchange through the Automated System for Customs Data.

30. **Mr. Trepelkov** (Director, Financing for Development Office, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that, in view of the information presented in paragraphs 43 to 45 of the report on the international financial system and development (A/72/306), it would be premature to draw any final conclusions on the impact of regulatory reform on sustainable development. Nonetheless, preliminary data indicated that sustainable development became more challenging.

31. **The Chair** invited the Committee to engage in a general discussion on the items.

32. **Mr. Zambrano Ortiz** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group recognized that international trade was an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction that could contribute to sustainable development. To make trade more free and fair it was important to strengthen the international trading system and increase the contribution of trade to national economies. He reaffirmed the importance of a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under WTO, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

33. The Group expressed serious concern at the lack of progress in the Doha Development Round, particularly on issues of interest to developing countries, and at efforts to undermine the commitments of the Doha Development Agenda. He called for the international community to work to conclude the Doha Development Round and prioritize issues that addressed the imbalances and inequities of the current global trading system. The Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference should address long-standing systemic

issues including market access for developing countries and trade barriers and trade distorting subsidies in developed countries.

34. Debt restructuring must be timely, orderly, effective, fair and negotiated in good faith. Action on a sovereign debt crisis should aim to restore public debt sustainability while preserving access to financing resources under favourable conditions. Sovereign debt issues should concern both developed and developing countries, since they could, if unchecked, adversely impact the global economy and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

35. Developing countries should be assisted in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies on debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate. Many countries remained vulnerable to debt crises or were in the midst of them. Measures should be considered for countries affected by severe natural disasters and social or economic shocks. Although it was the responsibility of borrowing countries to maintain sustainable debt levels, lenders also had a responsibility to lend in a way that did not undermine a country's debt sustainability. The Group would support the maintenance of debt sustainability of countries that had received debt relief and achieved sustainable debt levels.

36. Many commodity-dependent developing countries and economies in transition remained highly vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations, including some African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries. The Group recognized the need to continue efforts to improve the regulation, efficiency, responsiveness, functioning and transparency of commodity markets nationally, regionally and internationally in order to address commodity price volatility. Greater international macroeconomic coordination could further help to reduce policy uncertainty and the impact of spillovers and financial flow volatility.

37. Increasing illicit flows of funds, particularly from developing countries, were a cause of concern, particularly in light of their negative impact on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, the rule of law and the security of nations. Greater international cooperation was needed to combat illicit financial flows and ensure the timely return of assets to countries of origin.

38. The United Nations was the only universal forum for open, transparent and inclusive discussion of cooperation on tax matters. The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters should be upgraded to an intergovernmental body and provided with adequate resources to fulfil its mandate. Increasing the participation of experts from developing countries at its meetings would be critical to transforming the Committee of Experts into a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council, where experts represented their respective Governments.

39. The Group reiterated the importance of full and equal access to formal financial services for all, and would work to ensure that the international policy and regulatory environment supported financial market stability and promoted financial inclusion in a balanced manner and with appropriate consumer protection. The imposition of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries did not contribute to economic and social development.

40. The impacts of the challenging global environment on national efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda were concerning. Challenges included not only economic factors, but also natural disasters, climate change, environmental degradation and humanitarian crises and conflicts. Concrete and immediate action was needed to create the necessary enabling environment for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and to accelerate national and international efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. In that context, it was important to assess progress, identify obstacles and challenges to the implementation of financing for development outcomes, address new and emerging topics relevant to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and provide policy recommendations for action by the international community, particularly on the support of developed countries for developing countries. The Group therefore reiterated the importance of agreement on forward-looking actions that avoided rolling back the progress achieved on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.

41. **Ms. Krisnamurthi** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that economic growth in many regions remained below the level needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and could limit critical expenditure on health care, education, social protection and climate mitigation efforts. On the current global trajectory, it was unlikely that extreme poverty could be eradicated by 2030.

42. ASEAN member States continued to demonstrate economic resilience; in 2016 they had collectively represented the sixth largest economy in the world and robust GDP growth was projected for 2017. The main

driver of growth would be domestic demand, supported by growing private consumption and investment. ASEAN trade in goods had totalled $2.2 trillion in 2016, the largest share of which was trade within the region. Intraregional foreign direct investment (FDI) remained solid. At the 49th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting confidence had been expressed that ASEAN economies could withstand challenges in the global economic environment. ASEAN was committed to deepening economic integration under the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, which would contribute to the goal of shared prosperity and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

43. International cooperation must be enhanced to mobilize resources for development. Continuous capacity-building was needed, including on illicit financial flows, asset return and tax matters. ASEAN urged developed countries to fulfil their ODA commitments, since ODA remained the main source of development financing for many least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Commitments for an additional $100 billion per year for climate financing should also be fulfilled. The contributions of South-South cooperation were welcome as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

44. She called for improved market access and enhanced investment inflows for sectors related to the Sustainable Development Goals. Given that international trade was an engine for inclusive economic growth, particularly in goods and services related to labour-intensive sectors and rural economic activities, an open, rules-based, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system was imperative. Investment in infrastructure, industry, education and health sectors could catalyse more equitable economic growth.

45. Policy coherence should be promoted and efforts at all levels aligned with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. All stakeholders, public and private, should be fully responsive to the 2030 Agenda and its financial needs.

46. Lessons learned and best practices in financing for development should be shared; the forum on financing for development follow-up provided the main platform for such exchanges. Informal groups at the United Nations could be used to explore creative ideas to finance sustainable development. ASEAN member States stood ready to share regional, subregional and national lessons learned and best practices in financing for development.

47. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that international trade was vital to the least developed countries since it generated revenue and foreign currency and drove changes in growth, employment, production and the use of natural resources. However, the Group's share of global trade had continued to decline since 2011, which hindered efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal target 17.11.

48. The Group was deeply concerned by the 25 per cent contraction in merchandise exports in 2015 that had been followed by a 6 per cent decline in 2016 and the accompanying record merchandise trade deficit. It therefore called on members of WTO to address the marginalization of the least developed countries in international trade and to improve their participation in the multilateral trading system. Developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so that were members of WTO should ensure the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access, on a lasting basis, for all products originating from least developed countries. Market access should be facilitated by developing simple, transparent rules of origin. Least developed countries also needed support to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement. A development-oriented outcome from the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference was critical.

49. Despite a number of international efforts, many least developed countries struggled with high debt burdens. Debt service took up a large part of budgetary resources, representing an obstacle to economic growth, poverty eradication and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The international community should take effective measures to address debt problems, especially through full cancellation of all multilateral and bilateral debt owed by least developed countries to public and private creditors. Development partners should increase ODA and other concessional lending to ensure debt sustainability for least developed countries while meeting their financial needs for the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

50. The activities behind illicit financial flows, such as corruption, tax evasion and money-laundering, had serious impacts on domestic resource mobilization and the sustainability of public finances. Increased international cooperation to recover and return stolen assets was essential. General Assembly resolution 71/213 was an important step in initiating intergovernmental discussions in that regard.

51. The lack of progress on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was deeply concerning; preliminary data for 2016 showed a continued decline in total ODA from States on the Development Assistance Committee. The Group called on donor countries to fulfil their ODA commitments to the least developed countries. Flows of FDI to the least developed countries had contracted in 2016 in comparison with the previous year and continued to focus on extractive and related industries. Implementation of investment promotion regimes for least developed countries could accelerate FDI and help those countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. Special priority should be given to the least developed countries in the follow-up to and review of implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

52. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that, for small, open and vulnerable economies, international trade had always been a key driver of economic growth, job creation, innovation and socioeconomic development. CARICOM viewed with deep concern the tendency by some to view international trade openness as a zero-sum game. It strongly opposed the rise in protectionist sentiment and policies, which constrained aggregate demand and perpetuated low global growth, and remained committed to maintenance of an open, rules-based international trading system, as embodied by WTO.

53. Trade benefits accrued unevenly and increased competition had led to economic dislocation in some parts of the world, reflecting a lack of economic opportunity and social mobility. The solution to those developments was programmes to help reskill workers and assist those who were displaced to get back on their feet and compete for the technology-based jobs of the future. Policies should also provide workers with opportunities to relocate in pursuit of the benefits of economic growth and technological advances. Bearing in mind target 17.10 of the 2030 Agenda, which identified many of the actions necessary to creating an environment conducive to global trade, CARICOM called on its development partners to approach the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference with determination in order to conclude negotiations once and for all.

54. As the new development paradigm was implemented, CARICOM would work to fully address the unique vulnerabilities of small island developing States and the persistent economic and social challenges of countries in special situations, such as middle-income countries. Those efforts must include the adoption of approaches to measuring development that better reflected the realities of CARICOM countries. Full implementation of the outcome of the 2017 forum on financing for development follow-up was of paramount importance. CARICOM would actively engage with the United Nations development system to improve cooperation with middle-income countries and devise methodologies that could better account for their complex and diverse situations. Given the unique challenges to sustainable development faced by Caribbean small island developing States, CARICOM insisted that their specific needs and circumstances, particularly with regard to scale, capacity and local context, should be taken into consideration.

55. Greater coherence was needed between global economic policy-making and global trade governance that was consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals. The report of the Secretary-General on international trade and development (A/72/274) outlined the means to establishing a revitalized multilateral trading system with improved credibility and relevance, able to meet the challenges of the day, which should include maintaining provisions for special and differential treatment, so that trade could contribute to broad-based development and reduce inequalities among and within countries.

56. **Ms. Zahir** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that the current discussion was shaped by the impacts of recent environmental disasters in a challenging financial and economic landscape, particularly for small island developing States. Those States continued to experience the impact of slow recovery from the global economic and financial crisis, decline in trade flows, excessive price volatility, increasing indebtedness, low commodity prices and inability to access concessional financing. In a global economic environment characterized by persistent financial and political uncertainty, the need for fair, transparent and inclusive global economic governance could not be overstated.

57. As commodity-dependent countries, small island developing States were particularly concerned by the implications of declining commodity prices, especially in the fishing and agricultural sectors, for their small economies. Declining performance in exports, reductions in tourist revenue, and the impacts of climate change on fish stocks and crop yields. further negatively impacted their economies. They faced structural constraints that made diversification of their economies difficult, despite the importance of shielding them from the impacts of price volatility. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General on world commodity trends and prospects (A/72/254), excessive price volatility required globally coordinated action.

58. Systemic factors meant that recovering from natural disasters was especially difficult for small island developing States, particularly since recovery depended on additional borrowing and debt issuances, which compounded existing debt problems. The small island developing States were the most highly indebted group of countries in the world, yet many were middle-income countries that lacked access to concessional financing and assistance. AOSIS therefore reiterated its call for a GDP plus criterion to gauge eligibility for concessional financing so as to better reflect the inherent and structural vulnerabilities of small island developing States.

59. AOSIS members' remoteness from markets, geographical dispersion and isolation made trade a primary engine for their growth and development. Recent trends of protectionism and policies and strategies that effectively penalized export activities, as well as changing international market conditions, had a direct impact because small island developing States were heavily dependent on imported goods and services. At the same time, exports were a vital source of foreign exchange earnings and cash income generation. AOSIS therefore continued to call for a fair multilateral trading system that not only rejuvenated global trade and growth, but also addressed the shortcomings in international financial and monetary institutions through serious reforms.

60. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda was the key to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. AOSIS had participated in the forum on financing for development follow-up and remained committed to its transformative potential. Nonetheless, the forum's activities should be depoliticized, with a view to providing concrete and actionable policy tools for the full and effective implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The lack of engagement on issues of critical importance to AOSIS, including climate change and trade issues, had been disappointing. Those issues should be taken up by the Committee.

61. **Mr. Soriano Mena** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that, with respect to macroeconomic policy issues, the central role of the General Assembly should be further strengthened. The regulation and monitoring of the international and regional financial system needed to be improved in order to promote an international financial environment conducive to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, taking into account that the mobilization of national resources was not sufficient to achieve economic growth for sustainable development, and bearing in mind the need for justice and social inclusion. The commitments of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda must be fulfilled, in order to overcome the challenges of financing for development and create an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels.

62. CELAC reaffirmed the importance of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda in order to achieve a greater mobilization of financial resources and new, predictable and stable financial flows. Progress was needed on reform of the international financial system, particularly of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in order to improve and broaden the participation of developing countries in international decision-making processes and in the establishment of norms for economic matters and global economic governance. Developing countries should focus on scaling up international tax cooperation and combating illicit financial flows, in order to mobilize domestic resources for the Sustainable Development Goals. CELAC recognized the importance of eliminating tax havens and stressed the importance of disclosure and transparency in both source and destination countries, including with respect to financial transactions between Governments and companies. Appropriate regulatory frameworks at all levels would further increase transparency and accountability among public and private financial institutions. Debt relief, including debt cancellation and debt restructuring were very important. Determining actual payment capacity should be a core element in debt restructuring processes, to ensure that they did not undermine prospects for national growth.

63. The forum on financing for development follow-up should be further strengthened and planning improved. The conclusions of the forum and the recommendations of the high-level political forum on sustainable development were valuable tools to assess progress on financing for development and identify problems.

64. Although most of the countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region were middle-income countries, they continued to need ODA to reduce inequality and structural gaps, and to generate and strengthen their capacities to achieve sustainable development. CELAC therefore reiterated the call for developed countries to fulfil their ODA commitments. The United Nations development system, international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders were urged to address the diverse and specific development needs and challenges of middle-

income countries by taking multidimensional criteria into account in their strategies and policies, in a transparent manner. Given the reduction in access to concessional finance as countries' incomes grew, CELAC would continue to promote the use of multidimensional indicators to accurately measure the complex realities of development in the region. Shareholders in multilateral development banks and donors were encouraged to develop graduation policies that were sequenced, phased and gradual.

65. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that in a complex and interconnected world, macroeconomic and financial policies in some countries could set back growth and sustainable development efforts around the world. The global economic recovery was progressing only gradually, with weaker than expected growth. The trend towards jobless growth was a particular concern. In that context, policies to enhance economic growth and growth-inducing investment should be prioritized. A renewed global partnership was very important and should promote longer-term investment, including FDI, in critical sectors such as transportation, agriculture, energy, infrastructure and ICT and identify effective mechanisms to mobilize additional resources for financing sustainable development.

66. Open trade was a means to create employment and contribute to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Multilateral negotiations, such as those envisaged under the Doha Development Agenda, should be prioritized. He reiterated support for the multilateral trading system and the centrality of WTO as the cornerstone of a rules-based, open, transparent, non-discriminatory and inclusive multilateral trading system with development at the core of its agenda. The potential gains of trade could be enhanced by measures to improve rural infrastructure and education and expand access to credit in order to help integrate rural households into world markets.

67. While efforts by individual Governments to expand domestic revenue should continue, ODA remained highly relevant for a large number of developing countries, especially the most vulnerable. Given the recognition in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the need to drive domestic resource mobilization through strengthened tax administration, enlargement of the tax base and the combating of corruption, his Government was implementing a wave of reforms. The reforms included the encouragement of digital over cash transactions and the introduction of a single goods and services tax under the "one country-one tax" concept.

68. The income generated by the digital economy presented a new challenge to tax collection. Greater transparency and improved data would be needed to determine the locations where financial assets were created and investments took place, and where multinational corporations reported profits for tax purposes. Developing countries were often less equipped to deal with transfer mispricing by multinational corporations. The work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and the United Nations Practical Manual on Transfer Pricing for Developing Countries were useful in that regard. The increased representation of experts from developing countries on the Committee of Experts was welcome. India had been the first country to make a voluntary contribution to the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters.

69. **Ms. Zhuang** Yu (China) said that the international community must strengthen policy coordination and reform in economic governance and make joint efforts for an innovative, open, collaborative and inclusive world economy. Areas for cooperation should be expanded and new dynamic drivers of development should be leveraged. The multilateral trading system should be maintained and strengthened, and all forms of protectionism opposed. Better integration of developing countries in the global value chain should be promoted. The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and the Ninth Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Summit had made progress on trade and investment.

70. With respect to the global financial system, macroeconomic policy coordination should be strengthened to balance economic globalization. Emerging markets and developing countries should have a greater voice and better representation. China stood ready to work with all parties to promote reform of the international financial system and to conclude the fifteenth general review of quotas by IMF.

71. China provided interest-free concessionary loans to relieve the excessive burden on indebted countries. If a debtor was struggling to repay debts, all means of solving the problem were considered. In September 2015, the President of China had announced that it would exempt the debt on outstanding intergovernmental interest-free loans due at the end of 2015 for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. China would continue to fulfil its obligations in that area and promote the development of developing countries.

72. In 2016, China had promoted adoption by the Group of 20 (G-20) of the High-Level Principles for Digital Financial Inclusion. China stood ready to share its experience of developing financial infrastructure and establishing rural financial institutions with all parties. Illicit financial activities in the form of corruption, organized crime and tax evasion posed a serious problem for developing countries. A recent operation in China, conducted in cooperation with other States, had recovered more than 200 million yuan.

73. Financing for development was crucial to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Developed countries must honour their ODA obligations and continue to support developing countries through financing, technology, capacity-building, debt reduction and cancellation, and open markets. China invested significant sums in international development efforts and had set up two specific funds, one focusing on peace and development, and another for South-South cooperation.

74. **Ms. Ponce** (Philippines) said that uncertainty in the international policy environment, negative net international financial flows to developing countries and a worsening outlook for external debt sustainability in developing countries were global signals that required urgent attention. Trade that was more free and fair would require a rules-based, universal, transparent, equitable, participatory and inclusive multilateral trading system. Emerging mistrust in the multilateral trading system and the parallel resort to unilateralism and protectionism were endangering trade — a main driver of inclusive growth and employment generation and a key enabler of sustainable development.

75. As a middle-income country, the Philippines was highly dependent on primary commodities and was thus concerned by volatile commodity prices. Commodity diversification and increased investment in agricultural infrastructure needed to be facilitated. While the Philippines had one of the fastest growing economies in Asia, economic growth needed to be translated into inclusive growth in order to lower the incidence of poverty. Initiatives introduced in the Philippines for that purpose included tax reform to broaden the tax base and build up the middle class. Efforts were being made to combat illicit financial flows, and she called for more international cooperation in that area. The Philippines had a national strategy for financial inclusion based on access to financial products, education and literacy, and consumer protection. She joined with calls for greater participation in international economic decision-making for developing countries, and more meaningful international action to ensure greater stability in the international trading and financial system.

76. **Ms. Lum** Hui Zhen (Singapore) said that national efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda would be successful only if supported by a conducive global economic system. A system that was open, inclusive, transparent and based on the rule of law was of fundamental importance and a collective responsibility. There were three guiding principles for strengthening the global economic system.

77. First, the role of the United Nations in global economic governance should be reinforced. Global problems required global solutions. The United Nations, as the only global body with universal participation and unquestioned legitimacy, was uniquely placed to coordinate efforts to address global economic challenges and should play a key role in ensuring that multilateral institutions worked together to achieve the 2030 Agenda. All relevant actors, including international financial institutions, the regional commissions and the G-20, needed to work in a coherent way to address the needs of all countries, particularly developing countries. The strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations and G-20 should be part of efforts to enhance global economic governance, since G-20 outcomes needed the support of non-G-20 members for effective global implementation. G-20 engagement with the United Nations should take place through more institutionalized, predictable and regular channels. In that regard, Singapore welcomed the steps taken by G-20 towards greater inclusiveness and transparency.

78. Second, the mandates of multilateral technical forums — such as the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO, as well as the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, must be respected, since addressing complex economic and financial issues required deep technical knowledge, skills and experience. The United Nations should provide political impetus to efforts to address global economic challenges, rather than getting entangled in technical issues. The current global financial architecture needed to evolve; globalization and economic integration had brought into focus the urgent need to redefine global economic governance and decision-making. The Bretton Woods institutions and other international organizations needed to adapt, in order to better respond to the new environment and future challenges, and to give developing countries a greater say.

79. Third, the international community must recommit to an open, rules-based and strengthened multilateral trading system. International trade was an engine of prosperity and growth for all countries, both developed and developing. The case against protectionism must be made. For all its limitations, WTO was the ultimate forum for all trading nations to work together and build a global framework for trade; the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference should focus on issues of likely convergence and take meaningful steps towards supporting the multilateral trading system.

80. **Mr. Khoshroo** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals required an enabling international environment, which would involve additional financing, capacity-building, technology transfer and pro-development trade policies, adequate means of implementation, and equitable and effective participation of developing countries in global economic governance. Multilateralism remained the best option for an international trading system to act as a driver of economic and social transformation and provided a framework of rules, regulations and guidelines to which all members should adhere. Member States had repeatedly declared their commitment to promoting a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, depoliticized and equitable multilateral trading system as an indispensable requirement of sustainable development.

81. Regional integration would be paramount to the economic future of billions of people, especially in developing countries. The Economic Cooperation Organization, under its Vision 2025, had committed to expanding trade volumes as a necessary requirement for sustainable development. The United Nations should continue to support Member States, in particular developing countries, in optimizing their national development plans and policies. The work of UNCTAD was particularly valuable given its initiatives for technical assistance and capacity-building to address the trade and investment challenges faced by developing countries.

82. The Islamic Republic of Iran, which had been experiencing economic coercive measures, remained opposed to the application of unilateral economic and trade measures against other countries. Such measures adversely affected the sustainable development efforts of developing countries and had a negative impact on international economic cooperation and efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory, open multilateral trading system; they constituted a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the basic principles of the multilateral trading system.

83. His country's economy had unparalleled potential for growth, as demonstrated by the failure of economic sanctions to impede efforts to enhance domestic production. Having achieved one of the highest global growth rates in 2016, the Iranian economy could become the most vibrant emerging economy within 20 years. Sustainable and balanced growth would be achieved through extensive global partnership. His Government would continue to steadily enhance the entrepreneurial environment, protect intellectual property rights, improve corporate governance and engage in a robust campaign against money-laundering in order to foster a legal climate conducive to investment.

84. **Ms. Kharashun** (Belarus) said that international trade was a key factor in the transformation needed to implement the 2030 Agenda and meet the financing for development commitments of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The protracted fall in global trade, which had a negative impact on the development prospects of many countries, was a cause of deep concern. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals would require the joint efforts of all parties under the framework of a new global partnership. An international climate should be established that was conducive to national efforts for poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth and social development. In that regard, she noted the important role of UNCTAD as a central coordinator for considering trade and development and related issues. Its unique knowledge base, analytical skills and focus on exchanging national experience was needed more than ever. Attention to the problems of middle-income countries was welcome. As a middle-income country, Belarus called for the development of a United Nations strategy on the promotion of sustainable development for those countries. A whole category of countries was being left out of the process of coordination of assistance and cooperation was generally sporadic and unreliable; that situation must be changed.

85. Immediate and effective measures were needed to bring an end to the practice of applying unilateral coercive economic measures that were not approved by the appropriate bodies of the United Nations and were incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. Unilateral coercive measures were counterproductive and merely caused tension between sovereign States; they often had extraterritorial consequences for third countries since they had a negative impact on regional economic cooperation.

86. Belarus attached great importance to developing regional economic integration. Together with partners in the Eurasian Economic Union, Belarus was working to expand the network of free trade agreements with third countries and participation in regional integration processes. Confrontation between trade models must be avoided so as to achieve compatibility and complementarity.

87. Her country was interested in joining WTO as soon as possible as the last State of the Eurasian Economic Union not benefiting from membership of the multilateral trading system. She called for a non-discriminatory and transparent approach to admitting new members to WTO, taking into account the actual trade and economic possibilities of accession countries. As an observer, Belarus paid close attention to WTO processes.

88. The full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda would be decisive in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The commitment to leave no one behind implied undertaking innovative domestic and international commitments in order to overcome inequalities between countries. The technological gap was a determining factor in existing economic and social inequality. The Technology Facilitation Mechanism must be implemented in full, taking into account the interests of all countries, including middle-income countries. Special attention should be paid to the availability of environmentally responsible energy technologies.

89. **Mr. Maslov** (Russian Federation) said that trade was one of the most important instruments for steady economic growth and sustainable development. WTO must remain the foundation of the multilateral trading system and new life must be breathed into the negotiations under its aegis, which could be achieved by modernizing its agenda. Efforts should focus on issues where there was a realistic possibility of achieving consensus, such as developing digital trade, systematic monitoring of regional trade agreements, simplifying investment procedures and increasing transparency with regard to anti-dumping and compensatory investigations.

90. The Russian Federation considered it important to develop fair competition and was engaged in consultations with the UNCTAD secretariat on the establishment of a working group to consider the Russian proposal for a toolkit for international cooperation in combating restrictive business practices of transnational corporations and cross-border violations of rules on competition. The toolkit could be annexed to the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices. He invited other countries to participate in that working group.

91. His Government was consistently promoting integration through the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). In 2017 EEU had established a common market for medicines and medical devices. Work continued on creating a single market for services and a common electrical energy market would be established by 2019. Common oil and gas markets and a common financial market would be developed by 2025. EEU attached priority to joint efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as reflected by the report on Sustainable Development Goal indicators in the region presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017.

92. The potential offered by EEU, the Chinese "One Belt One Road" initiative and other integration formats for Eurasian partnership could become the basis for a single economic space stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, launching a new phase of globalization. Such partnership must be open to all interested countries and built on principles of transparency and mutual respect.

93. In view of the continuing volatility in the financial and commodities markets and growing debt burdens, his delegation called for the extension of partnership and improvement of risk management linked to financial flows and fluctuations, and facilitation of the exchange of macroeconomic information. BRICS was already tackling those issues, including by establishing a currency reserve pool and opening an African centre of the New Development Bank. Cooperation with multilateral development institutions was being expanded, there was increasing exchange of best practices and experience in development and the groundwork was being laid for links between markets, infrastructure and financial integration.

94. The Russian Federation was committed to implementing the outcomes of the international conferences on financing for development, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The format of the forum on financing for development follow-up in 2017 had allowed it to consider the issues holistically and as a means of implementation the 2030 Agenda. The forum could therefore make a comprehensive contribution to the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

95. **Mr. Gonzalez-Peña** (Cuba) said that macroeconomic policy questions were an area in which the central role of the General Assembly in

intergovernmental deliberations should be strengthened. For the majority of countries in the South, the international environment continued to impede development prospects; structural change was urgently needed in the economic, commercial and international financial spheres. Greater representation of developing countries, equity and transparency must be promoted in the mechanisms of global economic governance. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda would not be possible without firm commitments and greater political will to mobilize additional, predictable and unrestricted resources for developing countries. International public financing was insufficient to cover funding gaps in developing countries and many developed countries were not even fulfilling their ODA commitments.

96. Cuba supported external debt relief, including debt cancellation and restructuring for the countries of the South, particularly the poorest countries. Progress was needed towards the establishment of a multilateral sovereign debt renegotiating mechanism that was fair, balanced and development-oriented. A new international financial architecture should be built that guaranteed greater stability in financial flows to developing countries and reduced conditionality, volatility and speculation. A universal, rules-based, open, transparent, inclusive and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system should be established that guaranteed special and differential treatment for all developing countries. Discriminatory and protectionist trade practices that hindered development must be rejected.

97. His country rejected the promulgation and implementation of unilateral coercive economic measures as a means of exerting political and economic pressure on developing countries in contravention of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. For almost 60 years an economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba had caused deprivations for the Cuban people and had been the main obstacle to development, and consequently to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Cubans' right to development was being restricted by that blockade, which prevented access to the best technologies on an equal basis and impeded normal relations with international financial institutions and with other countries, including the United States of America.

98. **Ms. Shurbaji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that international trade, if it was free and equitable, could be a major driver of economic growth and poverty reduction. The international community should therefore commit to tackling the barriers to trade that restricted the ability of Member States to participate in international trade and investment, in order to promote national development. A key obstacle in that regard was the imposition of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries, in addition to politicization of the WTO membership process, restrictions on market access for agricultural products from developing countries, and protectionist measures.

99. Her country had hoped that the report of the Secretary-General on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries (A/72/307) would include an in-depth analysis of the consequences of such measures on the affected countries, rather than the brief mention they received. While expressing her appreciation for the Secretary-General's inclusion of Syria's response in the annex to the report, she stressed her country's strong opposition to unilateral coercive economic measures, which contravened human rights principles, international humanitarian law, and even the globalization policies of the very Governments that imposed the measures.

100. The 2030 Agenda called on Member States to refrain from imposing unilateral economic and financial trade measures that did not adhere to international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would remain elusive as long as some, in particular the United States of America and the European Union, continued to impose such measures. Attempts to relabel such measures contravened the thrust of the various United Nations resolutions that prohibited them. The moral and legal dilemma faced by the United Nations in that regard was the lack of international legal mechanisms to challenge unilateral measures.

101. **Mr. Pineda-Gonzalez** (Mexico) said that his delegation welcomed the outcome of the forum on financing for development follow-up. In view of the integral and cross-cutting nature of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, coherence must be ensured among economic and financial policies at the local, national, regional and international levels. The strengthening of international cooperation was crucial to supporting public policies on employment generation, production capacity and public and private investment, including partnership with multilateral organizations, financial institutions and funds. Investment should focus on infrastructure that was resistant to climate change and natural disasters and on ICT. Such support was particularly important for the most vulnerable countries and for countries that were graduating; in

that regard, the graduation process should be sequenced, phased and gradual, bearing in mind the structural gaps in middle-income countries, and should be supported by the international community and the development system.

102. With respect to macroeconomic policy, it was important to focus on: the protection of free trade, based on universal, non-discriminatory rules; greater financial inclusion, particularly for women and young people, and for migrants, along with reduction of the cost of sending remittances, in view of the importance of their contribution to inclusive growth in countries of origin, transit and destination; sustainable debt management and debt reduction for Caribbean countries, particularly those affected by recent climate phenomena; a substantial reduction and eventual elimination of illicit financial flows, so that those resources could be directed towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and a renewed commitment to tackle such problems as money-laundering, bribery and tax evasion in order to suppress corruption and organized crime; and partnerships to foster the exchange of knowledge, technologies and financial resources

103. **Mr. Skinner-Klée** (Guatemala) said that the multilateral trading system needed to be open, transparent, predictable, inclusive and equitable International cooperation needed to be strengthened on tax matters and on the reduction of illicit financial flows, including asset recovery, and the excessive volatility of commodity prices, which adversely affected commodity-dependent economies must also be addressed.

104. His country’s GDP was largely dependent on agricultural commodities, which were highly vulnerable to price volatility, speculation and market manipulation. Along with the threat of climate change, those factors had serious consequences for food security and for employment among large segments of the population in Guatemala. The regulation and transparency of international markets and commodity markets must be improved in order to address vulnerability and ensure fair trade with remunerative prices for producers, not just shareholders and dealers.

105. In Guatemala, illicit financial flows and asset recovery were addressed through two laws dating from 2001 and 2010 that had produced tangible and rapid results. He called on all countries to enhance international cooperation in that regard.

106. **Ms. Al-Shammari** (Qatar) acknowledged the role of UNCTAD in boosting international cooperation on trade with a view to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Economic crises, high rates of unemployment and high debt burdens in an economic environment characterized by uncertainty and volatility presented challenges to promoting economic growth, particularly in developing countries. In that regard, her country stressed the importance of building a multilateral trading system that was rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and just and that would contribute to sustainable development.

107. Advancing the Doha Development Agenda would provide impetus for achieving greater predictability in global policies and strengthening the multilateral trading system to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda relied greatly on the effective mobilization of domestic and international resources.

108. With respect to the commitment to international partnership on sustainable development, Qatar had hosted the thirteenth session of UNCTAD and, in November 2017, would host a preparatory meeting for the forum on financing for development follow-up.

109. The exercise of political and economic pressure to achieve certain goals was in contravention of international trade law and ran afoul of the principles of the multilateral trading system, in addition to its adverse impacts on international economic cooperation. Great efforts were being made to mitigate the impacts of the unilateral coercive measures and blockade against her own country.

110. **Ms. Oehri** (Liechtenstein) said that the United Nations had a central role to play in global economic governance. The efforts of all stakeholders and groups should feed into the United Nations as the inclusive, transparent and legitimate multilateral forum for global issues, which was uniquely placed to channel different actors’ sustainable development efforts into coherent action. The Committee could play an important role in that regard but would need to enhance its working methods and functioning. All delegations shared responsibility for overcoming political deadlock in order to achieve the shared objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

111. Financing for development was an integral part of the 2030 Agenda; Liechtenstein was committed to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in particular the suppression of illicit financial flows. Her country’s policies and regulations on combating illicit financial flows had been internationally recognized. Particular emphasis was placed on asset recovery and return through domestic procedures and international cooperation, and by building capacity in that regard, including through the International Centre for Asset Recovery. Her country’s financial intelligence unit was

leading efforts to adapt existing tools to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism in order to identify illicit financial flows associated with human trafficking and modern-day slavery. The approach taken was helping to eradicate those illegal practices and strengthen the rule of law. Such initiatives should form part of the Committee's discussion on sustainable development.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.