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Summary record of the 4th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 8 October 2019, at 10 a.m.

- Chair:* Mr. Niang (Senegal)
- later:* Ms. Fisher-Tsin (Vice-Chair) (Israel)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Bangladesh) said that the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would depend on how effectively the international community could forge strong partnerships through multilateral efforts. The Committee had a great responsibility to provide realistic solutions to address the many development challenges ahead.

2. In Bangladesh, “development for all” was envisioned as a way to create a prosperous country through bold development plans and people-centred policies, coupled with a whole of society approach. Poverty eradication, sustainable growth, environmental protection and human resources development were some of the key features of the Government’s development strategy. Bangladesh had achieved one of the fastest poverty reduction rates in the world and was ranked thirty fourth in the World Economic Forum’s Inclusive Development Index. Inequality had been addressed through a social safety net system, decent work and financial inclusion programmes for vulnerable groups.

3. Having achieved gender parity in school enrolment, Bangladesh was now focusing on enhancing the quality of education by emphasizing e-learning and ensuring the availability of qualified teachers. As a consequence, the school dropout rate had fallen to 18 per cent. In addition, an extensive network of 18,000 community clinics had been created to bring health coverage to the entire population, leading to a consistent reduction in maternal and child mortality, malnutrition and stunting.

4. In the area of technology, the Government was investing in digital centres, building the country’s first ever nuclear power plant and harnessing the potential of the ‘blue economy’ by opening up new opportunities in the Bay of Bengal. Transformative and innovative climate-resilient technologies and crops were also being used to reduce disaster risks and tackle the impacts of climate change.

5. In 2018 Bangladesh had qualified for the first time for graduation from the category of least developed countries. Moving forward, the focus would be placed on diversifying the economy, exploring new markets, transforming the population into a skilled labour force and creating a technology-driven society so that Bangladesh could become a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041.

6. However, developing countries like Bangladesh must be provided with more support through official development assistance (ODA), trade, foreign direct investment and technology transfer. They must also be able to fully harness the potential of South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation. Lastly, a stronger global partnership must be forged to address the challenges that hindered development, particularly the crisis which had led to Bangladesh continuing to host 1.1 million Rohingyas from Myanmar.

7. **Mr. Kemayah, Sr.** (Liberia) said that poverty remained a global challenge that negatively impacted marginalized groups and that the adverse impacts of climate change were real, unprecedented and had the potential to undermine sustainable development. There was an undeniable need for inclusive societies with high-quality education and equitable learning opportunities for all.

8. The remaining challenges impeding the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals could not be addressed in isolation and implementation would not be accelerated without cooperation, partnerships and meaningful dialogues, which were the true essence of multilateralism.

9. Liberia commended the Secretary-General for convening the Climate Action Summit 2019 to mobilize economic and political support at the highest level. It similarly commended the recent convening, under the auspices of the General Assembly, of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and of the high-level dialogue on financing for development, which had provided concrete steps on ways and means to finance the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. During the Committee’s deliberations tangible and practical actions would be required to address the diverse needs and challenges faced by developing countries, particularly countries in special situations. The Committee should work to strengthen the productive capacities of national economies, support national development efforts and bridge financing gaps in order to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

11. **Mr. Aljamali** (Yemen) said that his delegation welcomed the outcomes of the Climate Action Summit 2019 and of the recently convened high-level political forum and high-level dialogue on financing for development. The international community must now accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to ensure that no one was left behind and fully uphold the commitments undertaken in the Paris Agreement in order to tackle climate change.

12. As a result of wars, conflicts and natural disasters, some countries were losing the sustainable development gains that they had previously made. Countries in conflict and post-conflict situations suffered from difficult environmental, humanitarian and economic conditions. Hence, they required additional support from the international community in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

13. His country found itself in a critical situation because of the illegal actions of rebel Houthi militia against the legitimate Government, which had led to a decline in gross domestic product and unprecedented levels of unemployment and poverty, with disastrous social and humanitarian consequences. Nevertheless, the Government was attempting to improve economic conditions and was determined to resume the process of development. In that context, an economic commission had been established to end the deterioration in the exchange rate and to develop a national economic vision. The commission had already managed to stop the currency depreciation and was now supervising financial transactions in order to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. However, the bribes, illegal taxes and black market trading of Houthi rebels continued to cause economic disruption. The international community must support the work of the Government to mitigate the impacts of the war so that national reconstruction and economic development could resume.

14. **Ms. Senewiratne** (Sri Lanka) said that the 2030 Agenda served as a blueprint to address the challenges facing the planet and achieve progress for all humanity. While collective efforts had begun to bear fruit in combating poverty, reducing maternal and child mortality and increasing access to clean fuel and energy, more needed to be done to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Inequality, irregular migration and slow economic growth had affected implementation efforts, and rapid advancements in technology, while offering tremendous opportunities, also opened up the prospect of broadening the digital divide between nations.

15. The looming climate emergency had become an existential threat to many countries, including Sri Lanka. In that context, it was vital to accelerate collective efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. Her delegation therefore welcomed the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, which provided guidance on future action and how to address relevant gaps.

16. Urgent and meaningful action was needed to combat the climate emergency in line with the Paris Agreement. It was imperative that collective action focused on supporting the most vulnerable States, building their resilience, strengthening their preparedness and increasing their capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change. In that regard, Sri Lanka welcomed the innovative solutions proposed at the recent Climate Action Summit 2019. It also looked forward to a successful outcome to the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Chile in December 2019.

17. The Government of Sri Lanka was closely engaged with civil society, academia, women and youth in formulating initiatives and implementing projects related to the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to its involvement in stakeholder partnerships, the Government was working with international organizations and bilateral partners that provided valuable development assistance. The United Nations Development Programme had been a strong partner in that regard.

18. The success of the 2030 Agenda would depend on the collective ability to align and mobilize resources to fund the Sustainable Development Goals. Sri Lanka therefore welcomed the convening of the high-level dialogue on financing for development on 26 September 2019 and reiterated the importance of ODA in financing the Goals. It was imperative for Member States to abide by their ODA commitments.

19. While North-South cooperation was vital for financing and supporting inclusive and sustainable development, it must be mutually beneficial, in line with the national priorities of developing countries and without preconditions. While South-South cooperation was only a complement to and not a substitute for North-South cooperation, which remained the most important pillar for development financing, mutually beneficial South-South cooperation remained an important aspect of her country's development initiatives.

20. **Mr. Lam Padilla** (Guatemala) said that the Committee played an important role in discussing sustainable development issues with a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement, New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

21. The success of the high-level events held the previous week, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the

auspices of the General Assembly, demonstrated the commitment of countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and targets established by the international community. However, more needed to be done, in particular to mobilize the four sources of financing identified by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – public, private, international and domestic – in order to invest in sustainable development and, thereby, expedite the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

22. At the national level, the Government of Guatemala had integrated the Goals into its long-term national development plan. At the same time, as challenges related to climate change, international trade, migration, organized crime and corruption and many other issues transcended national boundaries, solutions would only be found through regional and global action.

23. His delegation attached particular importance to the draft resolution on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America, which would be submitted for consideration at the current session and which all delegations were urged to support.

24. The Committee should continue to work constructively to strengthen the United Nations development system so that countries could better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in line with their national priorities, including by facilitating the mobilization of resources for development to middle-income countries. Global statistical capacities should also be strengthened so that reliable data were available to review and monitor progress. Lastly, reform of the development system should focus on the empowerment of women and address climate change in a cross-cutting fashion.

25. **Ms. Hussain** (Maldives) said that the Committee's work was vital in addressing global development challenges in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. It also played a critical role in reviewing progress and furthering the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway).

26. As small island developing States were disproportionately affected by climate change, Maldives was concerned by the lack of collective action to address the current climate emergency and urged the international community to accelerate the commitments agreed under the Paris Agreement and the Samoa Pathway. More support from and collaboration with the international community was needed to build resilience and take concrete steps for disaster risk reduction, as agreed under the Sendai Framework.

27. At the national level, his Government had launched a five-year strategic action plan that put people and sustainability at the centre of its development policies by integrating the Sustainable Development Goals. Longer term plans covering infrastructure and socioeconomic development across the entire archipelago would shortly be launched.

28. While the Government was committed to undertaking significant tax reforms and combating corruption in order to minimize public debt, its ability to access financing for development remained a significant concern. Partners and international financial institutions must provide small island developing countries like Maldives with concessional financing and other innovative financial instruments that could support effective debt management.

29. **Mr. Hoshino** (Japan) said that his delegation had seen many improvements in the Committee's working methods over recent sessions and hoped that that trend would continue. The work of the Committee must be aligned with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and with the efforts of civil society and the private sector. At the same time, unnecessary programme budget implications would not be acceptable.

30. Japan had contributed to the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage held during the recent high-level week. That declaration confirmed the commitment of world leaders to realize universal health coverage, which provided the basis for the development of any country. As such, his delegation hoped to deepen the discussions on the implementation of the declaration during the current session.

31. Disaster risk reduction was an overarching means for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As disasters could significantly impede progress, Japan was focused on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction as an integral part of the sustainable development agenda.

32. All countries must engage with a shared sense of urgency to combat climate change. For its part, Japan was committed to promoting global decarbonization efforts, including by highlighting innovations and accelerating a virtuous cycle of environment and growth based on the long-term strategy developed under the Paris Agreement.

33. Financing for development and innovation was indispensable for achieving the Goals. It was important to increase the momentum of the international community towards innovative financing by deepening discussions on good practices by States and organizations. Japan would also contribute to deepening

the discussions within the Committee on the role of science, technology and innovation in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

34. **Mr. Fox-Drummond Gough** (Brazil) said that the Committee had a fundamental role to play as a forum for countries to coordinate and advance their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. However, while most of the Sustainable Development Goals were discussed by the Committee, more time should be allocated to discuss issues related to Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production. Brazil would continue to support necessary changes to the Committee's work to enable it to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

35. ODA remained the main channel of development cooperation and the commitments made in that regard should be met in full. The multi-stakeholder vision embodied in the 2030 Agenda required responsibilities for many different actors, including the private sector and civil society. At the current session, Brazil would serve as the facilitator of a draft resolution on the investment needed to finance the Sustainable Development Goals and would also support all efforts by the Committee to combat illicit financial flows.

36. In the context of the reform of the United Nations development system, his delegation welcomed the smooth transition to the repositioned resident coordinator system and noted that the first results from enhanced coordination were now becoming visible to both donor and programme countries. However, concerns remained over the sustainability of the funds needed to support the new resident coordinator system, particularly in the long run. Moreover, the reform of the development system was not an end in itself but rather served the higher purpose of lifting people out of poverty, ending hunger, providing for better health and education, and achieving the other Goals. The common objectives would only be achieved if national ownership and national priorities were fully respected.

37. In the area of agriculture, enhanced productive capacity in developing countries was essential for achieving Goal 2 on zero hunger. Massive agricultural subsidies in developed countries must be curbed as they not only jeopardized the environment and caused land degradation, but also blocked the development of a robust agricultural sector in the developing world.

38. Lastly, it was clear that South-South cooperation had reached a mature stage that went beyond traditional technical assistance. The Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation had set out a path for developing countries and their partners to

deepen their cooperation. Good use must now be made of that political momentum in furthering South-South and triangular cooperation.

39. **Mr. Mabongo** (South Africa) said that his delegation welcomed the recent adoption of the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly. While the enormity of the challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was daunting, former President Nelson Mandela had once said that everything seemed impossible until it was done. In the time remaining, it was critical therefore to mobilize as many partners as possible and to encourage innovative collaboration as part of that global effort.

40. The national development plan of South Africa was aligned with the Goals and sought, in particular, to address the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. However, such ambitions would not be realized if the planet was irreversibly compromised by runaway climate change.

41. The Government South Africa was committed to a multilateral, rules-based international order, with the United Nations at its core, as the best way of ensuring a just, equitable and fair world order grounded in international law. Similarly, it firmly believed in the need for a rules-based, fair, equitable, inclusive and development-oriented multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization. In that regard, the conclusion of the Doha Development Round was absolutely critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

42. **Ms. Theofili** (Greece) said that the five high-level meetings just held by the United Nations had demonstrated the will of the international community and its leaders to address the challenges ahead and to transform the world for the sake of future generations. The Committee should have a substantial role in following up on the ambitious agendas set by Heads of State and Government. It was time to leave behind business as usual and to engage in substantive dialogue and work. The Committee must keep pace with the rapid changes taking place by enhancing multilateralism, international cooperation and global partnerships with all relevant stakeholders.

43. Her Government was strongly committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda through its national implementation plan for the Sustainable Development Goals, which aimed to foster an integrated and cross-cutting approach. A shift towards a more inclusive model of development would be crucial for the achievement of the Goals at the national level. One of

the key national priorities was moving towards a circular economy and more sustainable consumption and production patterns. The promotion of new technologies and the development of the digital economy also held incredible promise for the advancement of human well-being.

44. Her Government also strongly supported the Paris Agreement and the long-term strategic vision of the European Union for a climate-neutral economy by 2050. Greece had already met its 2020 greenhouse gas targets and now produced 20 per cent of its electricity from renewables. It intended to increase that level to 35 per cent by 2030 under an ambitious new national strategy for energy and climate that would be adopted before the end of 2019.

45. Extreme weather events and adverse climate conditions had the potential to significantly damage cultural and natural heritage sites, and to disrupt century-old ways of life and intangible cultural heritage. Concerned by that particular aspect of climate change, Greece had convened an international conference in June 2019 entitled “Impacts of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage: Facing the Challenge”. She encouraged all Member States to endorse the outcome of the conference, which was aimed at encouraging global action on that issue.

46. *Ms. Fisher-Tsin (Israel), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

47. **Mr. Gayito** (Ethiopia) said that the Sustainable Development Goals provided the international community with the best opportunity to ensure people-centred and planet-friendly inclusive and sustainable development for all. However, as the clock was ticking, urgent action was needed to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Strengthening global partnership and solidarity was therefore an absolute imperative, as building multi-stakeholder collaboration was not an option but a necessity. In that regard, developed countries should redouble their efforts to provide financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries.

48. By implementing integrated pro-poor policies for the past decade, Ethiopia had been reducing poverty and had already seen encouraging results in implementing the 2030 Agenda: it was expected to have one of the fastest growing economies in the world in 2019. However, Ethiopia would need to make even more progress in view of the enormous scale of the challenge. It had therefore recently launched an economic reform agenda that aimed to address emerging macroeconomic imbalances, resolve structural bottlenecks and create new opportunities and sources for growth, particularly

by creating new jobs for young people through the privatization of State-owned enterprises. The Government was currently expanding the manufacturing sector to attract increased domestic and foreign investment.

49. Ethiopia took the issue of climate change very seriously as a country highly impacted by its devastating consequences. As part of its 10-year afforestation programme, 4 billion trees had been planted over the past 18 months. The Climate Action Summit 2019 had been held at the right time for the most vulnerable countries, and concrete follow-up was now required to implement the initiatives identified.

50. **Mr. Aidid** (Malaysia) said that his country was committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and was mobilizing efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change while ensuring that no one was left behind. In that regard, he applauded the reforms initiated by the Secretary-General to reinvigorate the United Nations development system and make it fit for purpose.

51. The United Nations development system needed to recognize the broad nature of South-South cooperation and develop tailor-made incentives and frameworks to advance partnerships based on the specific challenges and needs of each country. Malaysia supported South-South cooperation as a vital element of international cooperation for development and reaffirmed its commitment to continue supporting capacity-building for developing countries through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme.

52. The Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, announced by the Prime Minister of Malaysia on 5 October 2019, was a road map for restructuring the national economy, closing the gap between rich and poor, and enhancing people’s purchasing power. The Vision would transform Malaysia from a labour-intensive country, with reliance on low-paid workers, to a country with a high-income and highly-skilled labour force capable of attracting new investments and opportunities in line with the latest developments in science and technology.

53. Malaysia took its commitment to conservation very seriously as a signatory to an extensive list of international treaties on conservation, wildlife, forestry and the environment. Unfortunately, his country was being unfairly accused of putting the need for development before the needs of its forests. The palm industry had been developed sustainably and responsibly in Malaysia. In adhering to the Sustainable Development Goals, Malaysia had taken steps to improve production methods and ensure that palm oil production was certified sustainable by 2020. The forest

cover was currently at 55.3 per cent of the total land area.

54. All Member States must fulfil their pledges to address climate change and natural disasters by reducing carbon emissions, planting more trees, conserving forests and recycling materials, among other concrete steps. They owed it to future generations to leave a world that was sustainable not only economically but also environmentally.

55. The state of the global economy was more challenging than ever. The current international order was being exploited by the rich at the expense of the poor, and a number of developing countries were facing acute levels of debt and unfair free trade agreements. Malaysia remained committed to the promotion of free and fair trade.

56. **Mr. Amayo** (Kenya) said that his delegation welcomed the convening of the high-level events during the recent high-level week, including the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit 2019. Climate change was an existential threat that was quickly reversing the development gains made thus far, especially the progress made towards ending hunger and poverty. The theme of galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, climate action and inclusion emphasized the urgent need to review actions at both the national and global levels.

57. Financing the Sustainable Development Goals remained a challenge for Kenya. Adequate financing for development required action to build financial resilience and inclusion, strengthen international cooperation through trade, and mobilize private sector involvement. Domestic resource mobilization accounted for about 70 per cent of the Government's resource base. It was implementing tax reforms to raise revenue and supported the establishment of a universal tax body that could support all Member States.

58. As a country with an agriculture-based economy, Kenya was concerned by the continued rise in world hunger and supported the Secretary-General's call to promote the development of food systems that curbed waste along the food production system and that were inclusive, nutrition-driven, sustainable, eco- and climate- friendly and resilient. His delegation particularly stressed the need for Member States to review their policies related to subsidies on agricultural and farm inputs.

59. Harnessing science, technology and innovation played a key role in facilitating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Information and communications technology therefore remained an

integral part of his Government's national development strategy.

60. Kenya had successfully hosted the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly from 11 to 15 March 2019 and the first session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat Assembly) from 27 to 31 May 2019. The former had highlighted the need to innovate new strategies and actions to combat environmental challenges and had underscored the importance of adopting sustainable consumption and production patterns. The latter had focused on delivering results to address urban challenges and promoting socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities that provided adequate shelter for all. Kenya was committed to continuing to provide the international community with a conducive environment for the hosting of both those important United Nations bodies.

61. **Ms. Gonzalez Vargas** (Mexico), youth delegate, said that her presence at the current meeting demonstrated the commitment of the Government of Mexico to the inclusion of young people. While the Committee's work at the current session was important, it risked becoming irrelevant unless it made a real difference to the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized. In order to meet the high expectations of young people in that regard, the Committee should simplify its work and ensure that it had an effective impact on the ground.

62. Mexico was the fifteenth largest economy in the world and the largest exporter in Latin America and the Caribbean, with some of the largest free trade networks in the world. However, large segments of the national population remained excluded from those prosperity gains. To address that situation the Government was working to combat corruption, bridge inequality divides and promote inclusive development by investing in sustainable development through a multidimensional approach.

63. Sustainability, social inclusion and environmental protection should all be reflected in public policies, appropriate indicators and targets should be established to optimize the allocation of resources, and advances in information and communication technologies should be made in harmony with sustainable development. With regard to the latter, the Committee's deliberations should follow up on the recommendations contained in the recent report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation. The transformative potential of technology must be harnessed to achieve the Goals and to implement the 2030 Agenda, and the

United Nations should develop an inventory of cost-effective best practices to that end.

64. Urgent action was needed to tackle climate change, as collective action to date had been insufficient. While the initiatives announced at the Climate Action Summit 2019 gave reason for hope, more must be done not only to curb global warming but also to protect biodiversity and to reduce disaster risks. The initiatives launched at the recent high-level dialogue on financing for development were also encouraging and Member States must redouble their efforts in that regard, including through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

65. The 2030 Agenda was a high priority for the Government of Mexico, which had integrated them into its national development plan, and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets should guide the Committee's work at the current session. In addition to more closely aligning its work with the 2030 Agenda, the Committee should also work in harmony with the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

66. **Mr. Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the Committee had a key role to play in coordinating action and mobilizing the necessary resources to achieve the goal of leaving no one behind in line with the 2030 Agenda. Unfortunately, the world was not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and the Goals would be doomed to failure without sufficient funding. The international community must step up its efforts to fulfil the commitments made.

67. His Government was resolutely committed to implementing a large-scale community development programme that would bridge socioeconomic inequalities across the country. A multisectoral integrated programme to accelerate the achievement of the Goals had therefore been launched by the President of the Republic and aimed to provide basic social services to over 700 sites that had already been identified. The programme would also develop human capital and strengthen connectivity between rural areas. Furthermore, the Government was carrying out policies to improve the business climate in the country, which included creating an enabling environment in which sufficient resources could be mobilized for the development of a competitive private sector. Other notable national policies were geared towards increasing youth employment through industrial projects and gradually upgrading the archaic agricultural system in order to ensure greater food self-sufficiency.

68. In order to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had undertaken binding commitments to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 17 per cent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. In addition, in the context of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, at least 13.41 per cent of total land in the nation had been designated as protected areas and 63 per cent of national territory was reserved for forest cover. However, investment from development partners would be vital to ensure to the effective and successful implementation of such environmentally responsible conservation measures.

69. **Mr. Mahmaminov** (Tajikistan) said that his delegation supported the call by the Secretary-General for urgent action to successfully implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. The Committee could make an important contribution in that regard during the current session. For its part, Tajikistan was fully committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and had adopted a national development strategy that was fully consistent with the 2030 Agenda.

70. The impact of climate change was undermining the efforts of the international community to achieve sustainable development. In Tajikistan, there had been a significant decrease over the past decades in the size of glaciers, which were of vital importance for the entire Central Asian region. In that context, increased cooperation was needed among the countries concerned to develop preventive measures and mobilize the necessary funds to render assistance. It was essential not only to monitor glaciers, snow melt and other water sources, but also to take measures to protect those resources for future generations. Tajikistan therefore looked forward to hosting the Second International Conference on the Implementation of the Water Action Decade from 18 to 22 June 2020.

71. **Ms. Pobee** (Ghana) said that the Committee's work was of critical importance to national and global efforts to achieve sustainable development. The issue of eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind must continue to be high on the Committee's agenda. While developing countries like Ghana continued to strive to lift people out of poverty by creating an enabling environment, that challenge was increasing as a result of rising inequalities within and among countries.

72. Current negative global trends continued to have a negative impact on global efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. Climate change, for example, was threatening food security, exacerbating health threats, adversely affecting water availability and increasing the displacement of communities.

73. Current levels of financial flows fell far short of what was required to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Collective efforts must therefore be intensified, and new and innovative public-private partnerships established, to meet the annual investment requirement of up to \$7 trillion for the Goals. To that end, it was critical to increase and accelerate long-term sustainable financing from both public and private domestic and international sources; to strengthen international cooperation in tax matters, including by creating a global forum to deal with challenges associated with tax evasion and illicit financial flows; and to address the financing gap in the operational activities of the United Nations, as the current imbalance between core and non-core resources continued to be a source of concern. Her delegation hoped that the reinvigorated resident coordinator system would enable sufficient resources to be made available for development activities in Member States.

74. Ghana called for a rules-based multilateral trading system that facilitated trade and provided opportunities for developing countries to broaden their export bases and advance their economies. Efforts by developing countries to promote sustained infrastructure development must be supported by regulatory frameworks that encouraged investment flows. The transfer of appropriate technology needed to be enhanced through supportive policies and institutional frameworks. Financial inclusion held the key to poverty alleviation and sustainable development of the most economically deprived communities. Policies in that area must continue to be prioritized, and the role of technology and innovation must be enhanced.

75. Ghana remained committed to the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the many other landmark United Nations agreements that provided a path towards sustainable development. Strengthened multilateralism to address global challenges was the only way forward.

76. **Mr. Lamce** (Albania) said that the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals should guide national policies and actions at all stages of development. His delegation strongly supported the Secretary-General's reform of the United Nations development system, which must be better able to adopt an integrated and system-wide approach in order to implement the 2030 Agenda and ensure that no one was left behind. The Committee had a crucial role to play in supporting and advancing the achievement of the Goals.

77. Albania was fully committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Goals in an integrated and coherent manner. National

implementation efforts went hand in hand with the ambitious government reforms undertaken towards European Union integration and a number of specific national policies had been implemented under Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, particularly judicial reform measures. Structural and macroeconomic reforms were also being undertaken by the Government to raise the productivity and competitiveness of the economy, create more jobs, improve governance and public service delivery, and promote financial sector stabilization, among other areas. Education, women's empowerment and gender equality were particular areas of focus, and significant progress had been made in ensuring women's full and effective participation at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

78. **Ms. Kocyigit Grba** (Turkey) said that her delegation hoped that the political momentum generated during the high-level week of the General Assembly would be translated into tangible actions during the current session. The United Nations was central to efforts to create a multilateral order and defend international norms, agreements and institutions. The seventy-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Organization would be an opportunity not only to reaffirm existing commitments but also to review and strengthen the United Nations system. Turkey supported the revitalization of the Committee and welcomed the proposal to establish an informal working group to improve its working methods.

79. The Government of Turkey would continue to support the 2030 Agenda and its means of implementation. The concept of sustainable development had been embedded in national development plans since 1996, which provided a strong basis for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. At the national level, progress had been made in eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable. In the areas of education and health care, remarkable progress had been achieved in increasing access to high-quality public services. Inclusive development policies had also reduced interregional infrastructure disparities, and efforts to distribute increased prosperity among all segments of society would continue. Moving forward, national policies would prioritize improving research and development, ensuring digital transformation and competitive production, and strengthening human resources, logistics and other infrastructure.

80. Turkey was one of the countries most affected by the impacts of climate change, including droughts, floods and extreme weather events. At the Climate Action Summit 2019 Turkey had announced three

initiatives to strengthen the role of cities in global adaptation and mitigation efforts, which it called on all Member States to support: the leadership initiative for local climate investment; the zero-carbon buildings for all initiative; and the climate-friendly transportation initiative. Turkey was also revising its national adaptation strategy and action plan on the basis of the latest scientific evidence.

81. To bridge the widening gap between developed and developing countries, it was crucial to promote the technological advancement of the countries left further behind. To that end, Turkey was actively supporting strengthening the scientific, technological and innovation capacity of the least developed countries through the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, headquartered in Turkey. Furthermore, since 2011, Turkey had provided \$350 million in ODA each year to the least developed countries.

82. **Ms. Oropeza Acosta** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that over the past decade her country had tripled its gross domestic product per capita, it had become a leader in regional economic growth and it had significantly reduced social inequality. Those successes had been underpinned by an increase in the national minimum wage above the level of inflation and a decrease in unemployment. Investment in vital areas such as drinking water and basic sanitation had led to a reduction in child mortality and an increase in life expectancy. Decisive steps had therefore been taken towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

83. Her delegation stressed the need to live in harmony with nature. Mother Earth could live without humans, but they could not live without her. The Climate Action Summit 2019 had demonstrated the need for urgent action and so serious, concrete and ambitious steps must now be taken to address the climate crisis, which was an existential threat. However, while global efforts were essential, the root cause of the crisis was the capitalist system and its unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, which depleted Mother Earth of all its resources. The only way to achieve a balance between the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations was to promote policies, strategies and mechanisms that were in harmony with nature.

84. **Ms. Supatashvili** (Georgia) said that it was clear from the Secretary-General's progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals that the actions taken by countries to date would not be sufficient to achieve the Goals by 2030. New far-reaching commitments and actions were needed to generate practical solutions and accelerate progress.

85. In recent years, the implementation of national structural reforms that supported economic liberalization, trade facilitation, access to finance and an attractive business climate had resulted in tangible improvements to the competitiveness of Georgia, which was now ranked sixth among 190 countries in terms of the ease of doing business. The Government had also increased access to basic services and had strengthened social protection and support programmes by making them more targeted.

86. While navigating its way towards a more sustainable future, Georgia was striving to systematically align its national policies with the Goals and to transform each of its commitments into a specific policy outcome. To date, the voluntary national reviews had provided invaluable guidance in creating the appropriate system for the achievement of the Goals. Georgia therefore planned to present its second review at the high-level political forum in 2020.

87. As a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Georgia was committed to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change. It was currently updating its national determined contribution, among other measures.

88. International trade acted as a catalyst for achieving inclusive economic growth, reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development. In that regard, Georgia would host the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum on 22 and 23 October 2019. The event would serve as an international platform for senior policymakers, businesses and community leaders to discuss important trade and related issues.

89. **Mr. Jinga** (Romania) said that the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement could only be realized through a strong and confident multilateral system that empowered States to reach their targets. While the need for collective action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals was undeniable, it was a matter of concern that financing for development remained insufficient. In that context, the primary focus must be on poverty reduction and the mobilization of the public and private funds needed to leave no one behind. A national strategy for sustainable development would guide the actions of Romania until 2030.

90. The Government of Romania was committed to the Paris Agreement and had also been working to advance the European Union agenda on climate change, to combat pollution and to protect the environment against further degradation. A national strategy on climate change had been conceived to build a more

resilient economy, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and achieve smart economic growth.

91. On 16 April 2019, a high-level meeting on partnerships for sustainable development had been held in Bucharest with the participation of the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations, representatives of national Governments and civil society, and national coordinators of the Sustainable Development Goals, among others. The resulting Bucharest Declaration on Fostering Partnerships for Sustainable Development acknowledged the need to act urgently and accelerate collective actions to implement the 2030 Agenda. It was only through such partnerships that the Goals would be successfully achieved.

92. **Mr. Barro** (Senegal) said that the many remaining challenges to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 urgently required the international community to respect commitments to the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the New Urban Agenda, among other agreements, in order to build the stable, equitable and prosperous world that everyone wished to see. In that context, Senegal would continue to implement its national development plan alongside a range of inclusive socioeconomic measures designed to achieve the Goals.

93. At the Climate Action Summit 2019, his Government had announced its intention to step up its efforts to combat climate change. Accordingly, Senegal aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Integrated water management was another way that Senegal was contributing to global conservation efforts. In that context, he was pleased to announce that the Ninth World Water Forum would be held in Dakar in March 2021.

94. His delegation supported the revitalization of the Committee's work and welcomed the proposal to establish an information working group to improve its working methods.

95. **Mr. Issetov** (Kazakhstan) said that current progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 was insufficient and urgent action was needed to leave no one behind. In 2019, Kazakhstan had presented its first voluntary national review on the progress achieved to date.

96. The midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries 2014–2024, which would take place on 5 and 6 December 2019, would be instrumental for the achievement of the Goals by those countries.

However, all countries in special situations faced many common challenges to achieving the Goals, such as climate change, commodity dependency, a lack of economic diversification and debt sustainability problems. Those issues were exacerbated by the effects of a global economic crisis that had prevented equal participation in the global economy and had resulted in higher trade costs. While the methods for solving such challenges differed for countries in special situations, a determined partnership among them would be of added value to the work of the Committee.

97. In the context of the ongoing repositioning of the United Nations development system, Kazakhstan welcomed the new generation of country teams headed by independent resident coordinators and looked forward to the further revitalization of the Committee's work in the belief that multilateral consensus and diplomacy were catalysts for attaining an economically equitable and sustainable global society.

98. **Mr. Imbert** (Monaco) said that the events of the recent high-level week had once again highlighted the central role of the economy and finance in implementing the 2030 Agenda. They had also led to the adoption of important political declarations that focused on the challenges ahead and the need to step up global efforts.

99. Environmental protection was a high priority for Monaco. His delegation particularly welcomed the nature-based solutions coalition led by China and New Zealand, in which context Monaco had been contributing its marine protection expertise. At the Climate Action Summit 2019, Prince Albert II had reaffirmed the commitment of Monaco to halve its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Monaco had also committed to an average annual increase in climate financing of 4.5 per cent by 2030 and had recently joined the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action. Monaco would contribute 3 million euros to the Green Climate Fund for the period 2020–2022.

100. The Committee had a central role to play in implementing the 2030 Agenda. However, the previous year had seen an unprecedented number of requests for votes on draft resolutions and a record number of amendments had been voted upon. At a time of erosion in multilateralism, it was more important than ever for the international community to come together in a spirit of consensus and to overcome its divisions.

101. **Mr. Margaryan** (Armenia) said that the Committee remained a key multilateral platform for development cooperation, with a special focus on sustainable development and the acceleration of progress toward the achievement of the Sustainable

Development Goals. The promotion and protection of human rights, in particular economic and social rights, was a prerequisite for sustainable development. In that regard, his delegation stressed the importance of the Committee focusing on human capital, the right to development and the economic participation of women and youth, while sharing best practices and lessons learned. The needs of people residing in conflict areas should also be addressed in order to promote their engagement in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

102. Middle-income countries faced specific development needs and challenges that required a tailor-made approach, particularly to facilitate their access to development financing and climate finance. At the same time, due regard should be given to the policy recommendations from the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum, in order to make the best possible use of those mutually reinforcing platforms.

103. Armenia looked forward to the launch of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework review process, with a view to identifying existing gaps and challenges as well as opportunities for improved coordination and stronger engagement. It was also working to ensure the compatibility of its national priorities with the Goals while promoting innovation and embracing information and communications technologies in order to advance the “smart” development of the country. In that context, Armenia would host the twenty-third World Congress on Information Technologies from 6 to 8 October 2019 in Yerevan.

104. **Ms. Elgarf** (Egypt) said that her country had been one of the first to adopt sustainable development plans and was currently implementing an ambitious programme of economic, legislative and institutions reforms. At the national level, the programmes under way were focused on education, health and the empowerment of women. At the regional level, Egypt had undertaken measures to strengthen African agricultural practices, thereby improving food security, and was promoting economic integration and increased inter-African trade.

105. Climate change and demographic growth had made water scarcity a major issue for her country and the entire region. She called on the international community to undertake sincere efforts to manage transboundary water resources in order to protect the rights and interests of all States sharing the same water basin. Water was an inalienable right and essential to

life. Poor water management would thus ultimately be detrimental to international peace and security.

106. Egypt had been actively involved in international efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals since their adoption in 2015 and had presented its voluntary national reviews in 2016 and 2018. The high-level political forum was the ideal venue for exchanging lessons learned. Implementing the sustainable development agenda required genuine effort, and the Committee provided great leverage therein. All Member States should engage in constructive negotiations with an open mind with a view to finding solutions to common challenges.

107. **Mr. Alsharrah** (Kuwait) welcomed the new resident coordinator system and cited the importance of implementing the 2030 Agenda and combating climate change according to the national priorities and financial resources of each country. Citing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, he said that all States must remain acutely aware of the importance of working together for mutually beneficial results. They must redouble their efforts to achieve fair and equitable sustainable development for all.

108. Although a high-income State, Kuwait understood the importance of forging partnerships in both the South and North. To that end, his Government had provided assistance to a total of 107 countries to help them achieve the 2030 Agenda and called for developed countries to fulfil their commitments to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income as ODA.

109. **Mr. Kelapile** (Botswana) said that urgent action was needed to scale up international efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, to implement the Addis Ababa Agenda and to fulfil the commitments agreed under the Paris Agreement. The Committee remained a critical platform for Member States to engage in meaningful deliberations with a view to ensuring that all international commitments were upheld. It was also an important mechanism for conducting review processes in collaboration with other United Nations entities, particularly the high-level political forum. Revitalization of the Committee’s work remained vital for the international community to adequately address the many issues before it and contribute to the goal of leaving no one behind. His delegation therefore welcomed the establishment of an informal working group to examine the Committee’s working methods.

110. The adverse impacts of climate change severely undermined the ability of many countries to achieve sustainable development. Like several other countries in its region, Botswana had declared 2019 as a drought

year. Other climate change-related impacts included a significant decline in agricultural production and increased food insecurity as a result of acute water shortages. In response, the Government had recently developed a climate policy and strategy, and had committed to reducing national greenhouse gas emissions by 15 per cent by 2030. However, that ambitious plan would not be achieved without support from partnerships and capacity-building assistance. The key to success would be technology transfer, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as climate financing support.

111. Addressing the many concerns of countries in special situations, including least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, would remain pivotal during the current session. While those countries had made some advances in addressing their common challenges, it was a matter of concern that progress in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action remained very slow. Many landlocked developing countries, including Botswana, were currently not on track to meet their 2024 targets under the Programme, let alone the 2030 targets for the Sustainable Development Goals. The midterm review of the Programme in December must therefore provide concrete proposals on how to accelerate implementation.

112. As a middle-income country, Botswana remained deeply concerned that it belonged to a category of countries that accounted for an estimated 73 per cent of the world's poor. Despite their socioeconomic classification, many middle-income countries were not well positioned to achieve the Goals. Special attention should therefore be also paid to addressing the prevailing challenges of middle-income countries during the current session.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.