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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 11th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 October 2022, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Abdelaal (Vice-Chair)..... (Egypt)

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*In the absence of Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria), Mr. Abdelaal (Egypt), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.*

**Agenda item 18: Sustainable development (continued)**

- (a) Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21 (continued) (A/77/210 and A/77/249)**
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1. Ms. Micael (Eritrea) said that her country's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions amounted to only 0.01 per cent, yet Eritrea was among the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change and its development priorities were seriously threatened by that phenomenon, especially from

desertification, land degradation and drought, and it was particularly to vulnerable climate variability, which had strong links to land degradation and desertification. Eritrea gave priority to climate change adaptation and the Government had been undertaking rigorous soil conservation, afforestation and reforestation measures; establishing protected areas and enclosures and area-based conservation activities; constructing rainwater harvesting structures; introducing drought and disease resistant crops and early maturing crops; and developing rangeland and animal husbandry.

2. Eritrea was committed to embarking on a carbon-neutral sustainable development pathway within the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. The Government was striving to reduce its carbon emissions from fossil fuels unconditionally by 12 per cent and conditionally by 38.5 per cent by 2030. Furthermore, Eritrea was in the process of revising and updating its nationally determined contribution of 2018, to align it with the more recent national context.

3. Having developed a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, the Government was committed to taking effective measures to stop the loss of, and to protect, biodiversity and ecosystem services, which would be fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and rebuilding a resilient post-pandemic world. The Government had also enacted a national ban on plastic bags in early 2005. Currently, Eritreans used cloth, nylon or straw bags, many of which were locally manufactured. In order to sustainably utilize its natural resources, Eritrea would strive to strengthen its institutional capacity, develop and implement environmental related regulatory frameworks, programmes and action plans, establish integrated information management systems and, more importantly, sensitize the public to leverage efforts and promote a sense of ownership.

4. The mitigation of climate change impacts required concerted global efforts and could only be achieved if the international community, based on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, made an ambitious contribution towards greenhouse gas emission reduction on the basis of the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The challenges presented by climate change needed to be addressed by consistent and harmonized actions at the national, regional and global levels. Political will had to be followed by concrete action but for decades, the same discussions had been held. The international community must show solidarity with the countries most affected by climate change and work towards securing a safer planet for generations to come. Eritrea was fully committed to adhering to the

commitments that it had made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and was guided by the principles therein.

5. **Ms. Barahona Figueroa** (El Salvador) said that 89 per cent of El Salvador had been designated at risk from natural disasters, which was extremely concerning as that was territory where more than 95 per cent of the country's population lived. Such vulnerability demonstrated the need for joint action by the international community to better adapt to climate change. During the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, efforts must be redoubled to implement the Paris Agreement, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, especially from the developed countries. That would significantly contribute to limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius, as would the fulfilment by developed countries of their financial pledge to contribute \$100 billion per year to developing countries. Her delegation called for the establishment of a financial mechanism for loss and damage, commended the adaptation measures contained in the Glasgow and Sharm el-Sheikh programmes of work aimed at improving resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, and welcomed the call by the Secretary-General for the creation of early warning systems on a global scale.

6. The contribution of El Salvador to global greenhouse gas emissions was extremely low and 86 per cent of its national energy grid was powered by renewable resources, including hydrothermal and geothermal energy. In that context, the Government of El Salvador had recently hosted the Second High-level Conference of the Global Geothermal Alliance, at which the member countries of the Alliance had adopted the San Salvador Declaration, which aimed to accelerate geothermal deployment globally. The Government had also established a new national environmental policy, which aimed to incorporate sustainable criteria into its development model. In addition, its national biodiversity strategy included targets for the integration of biodiversity in national development plans and poverty reduction policies, and sustainable management practices were also being considered for adoption in economic sectors responsible for biodiversity loss. Her delegation emphasized the importance of implementing inclusive policies that prioritized sustainability, resilience, adaption and mitigation through good practices, the exchange of scientific data and the sharing of technology, among other measures.

7. **Mr. Hoeseb** (Namibia) said that climate change remained the most pressing challenge currently facing humanity. In view of the fact that developing countries were suffering disproportionately from its impacts, there was an urgent need for the Committee to focus on ensuring that the international community fulfilled its commitment of providing \$100 billion per year to combat that phenomenon. The twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should stress the urgent need to fulfil the pledges made at the previous session, lay the foundations for climate resilience and reaffirm the commitment to climate partnerships for a sustainable future.

8. Namibia was one of the driest countries in the world, characterized by climate vulnerability in the form of persistent droughts and unpredictable and variable rainfall patterns. The country also faced sporadic floods that caused not only damage to infrastructure and crops, but also the loss of life and displacement of people. Such impacts had slowed down the progress of Namibia to achieving the 2030 Agenda and prosperity for all Namibians. Consequently, a sustained and ambitious response was needed more than ever before. It was critical for the international community to renew its commitment to the international environment-related instruments that underpinned the resolve to reverse the climate catastrophe. It would not be possible to end poverty and food insecurity or achieve several of the Sustainable Development Goals without preventing land degradation and restoring degraded land. For that reason, Namibia championed Goal 15 through the Group of Friends on desertification, land degradation and drought. The 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was a landmark tool to achieve land degradation neutrality and reduce the impact of drought on vulnerable populations. His delegation called for its full implementation by all parties through its integration in their national actions programmes.

9. Like many developing countries, Namibia remained vulnerable to the asymmetrical impacts of climate change. To preserve the planet and its people, it was necessary to scale up ambitions and step up cooperation in the transition towards net zero emissions. That would require significant economic restructuring, technological breakthroughs, investments and behavioural changes. Although the contribution of Namibia to global greenhouse gas emissions was minimal, it took its obligations to combat climate change seriously. Accordingly, the Government had put in place a carbon tax and had raised its climate ambitions to achieve net zero emissions by revising its

nationally determined contribution. An ambitious green recovery plan had been launched with the aim of establishing the country as a regional and global decarbonization champion.

10. **Mr. Jo Tong Hyon** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that, owing to a protracted global public health crisis, severe and frequent natural disasters and an unstable global security environment, the international community was failing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Concrete actions and a stronger determination to succeed were needed more than ever. Artificial factors hindering the achievement of sustainable development should be removed as early as possible. The 2030 Agenda was a joint programme of action whose successful implementation would require leaving no one behind. However, a few specific countries were desperately obstructing the independent development of sovereign States for the sole reason that they were introducing a different ideology and system. The political, economic and military pressure and blockade imposed by the United States and its vassal forces upon independent countries created great obstacles to their sustainable socioeconomic development. The United Nations and international community should duly reject all those unjust practices and strive to ensure that the achievement of the Goals was directed towards prosperity and development for all.

11. Developing countries should further strengthen mutual cooperation in implementing the sustainable development agenda. They represented the majority of States Members of the United Nations and should assume a greater role in promoting the achievement of the Goals. If they enhanced their cooperation based on the principles of equality and joint prosperity, their efforts to attain the Goals would be accelerated in a more effective way. Developing countries should raise their voices to safeguard their right to development in the international arena and foster closer exchanges and cooperation in all fields of socioeconomic development, including trade, science, technology, education and public health.

12. His Government was making significant strides in achieving the 2030 Agenda by steadily promoting a people-centred approach, even amidst the unfavourable circumstances and conditions caused by the global health crisis and natural disasters. It would secure national prosperity and a happy life for the people by fully mobilizing the country's natural resources, technologies and internal power and through active cooperation with other States Member of the United Nations.

13. **Mr. Al Nahhas** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that even in the midst of exceptional circumstances, his country had presented its first voluntary national review to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2020 and looked forward to presenting its second review in 2023.

14. The Syria 2030 sustainable development strategy, drafted in cooperation with United Nations agencies and programmes, had established national ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals. Genuine realization of those Goals required rejection of political agendas, double standards and interference in the internal affairs of States.

15. The restrictions being placed on United Nations agencies providing assistance to the Syrian Arab Republic were inconsistent with the guiding principles for humanitarian work. The unilateral coercive measures being imposed on his country were a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and should be lifted immediately.

16. **Mr. Bokoum** (Burkina Faso) said that the national authorities of his country had established an environmental protection charter to address the environmental challenges facing Burkina Faso. Its purpose was, inter alia: to uphold environmental legislation; to adopt sustainable models of consumption and production; to ensure the proper management of natural resources; to incorporate climate change into national and local budgetary planning; to promote environmentally friendly practices in all development sectors; to guarantee the equitable use of natural resources as a means of preventing local conflicts; to promote clean and efficient technologies; to encourage inclusive and participatory environmental democracy at the local level; to strengthen environmental monitoring mechanisms and oversight; and to promote social equity in environmental governance.

17. Since the adoption of the environmental charter, the incorporation of sustainable development principles in development policies and programmes had improved. Sectoral policies, regional development plans and community development plans that incorporated those principles had increased from 17 per cent in 2015 to 40 per cent in 2020. Despite such progress, however, sustainable development challenges remained, including in the areas of natural resource management, carbon emission reduction, the transition to a green economy, the prevention of unregulated mining and the improvement of good environmental governance.

18. While Burkina Faso aimed to strengthen its own national expertise in order to better address its sustainable development challenges, it was currently

facing unprecedented terrorist attacks that were endangering its territorial integrity and national cohesion, undermining development efforts, negatively impacting environmental protection and biodiversity preservation measures and exacerbating tensions over natural resources. The escalating violence had forced more than 1.5 million people to flee their homes since the start of 2020, leading to the loss of many human lives and also causing the death of cattle, a drop in agricultural production and the closure of schools. Burkina Faso and the West African subregion would need support from the international community to vanquish terrorism and achieve sustainable and inclusive development.

19. **Ms. Uprety** (Nepal) said that prospects of the international community attaining the Sustainable Development Goals had become increasingly remote as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the climate crisis and ongoing geopolitical tensions. Inflation and soaring fuel and food prices had worsened the livelihoods of many, leading to a rise in extreme poverty for the first time in a generation. Prior to the pandemic, it had been estimated that an average annual investment of around \$19 billion would be required for Nepal to achieve the Goals, which was about 48 percent of its gross domestic product. However, the impact of the pandemic, climate change and geopolitical crises had further increased that requirement. At a time when Nepal was preparing to graduate from the least developed country category by 2026, those factors were rolling back its hard-earned development gains and making the graduation process an uphill task. However, Nepal was determined to turn the tide and make its graduation smooth and irreversible.

20. Nepal was firmly committed to implementing the Paris Agreement and achieving net-zero emissions by 2045 and called for scaled-up financial and technological support. Urgent actions were needed to mobilize emergency humanitarian and economic support to those countries facing extreme climate events and economic distress. More than ever, development partners needed to live up to their financing commitments of 0.7 per cent of gross national income as official development assistance (ODA) and provide the \$100 billion pledged per year in climate finance to developing countries. Similarly, allocating half of climate financing to climate adaptation and establishing a financing facility to compensate developing countries for loss and damage from climate impacts would be critical to meeting the net-zero emission targets. Such measures were the bare minimum to rescue the Goals, recover from the pandemic and win the battle against climate change. The global partnership must turn from

rhetoric to reality. It was also important to channel foreign direct investments to developing and the least developed countries in order to address their development priorities, including the need for resilient infrastructure, connectivity, digital technology, energy and productive capacities, and disaster risk reduction.

21. Many developing countries, including Nepal, were highly dependent on energy imports. Investment and innovation in clean and renewable energy were the best way forward to tackle the financial burden of energy imports and manage trade deficits. Moreover, the global financial architecture must be made more inclusive and representative, in particular so that developing and the least developed countries could achieve the Goals and address climate change.

22. **Mr. Chala** (Ethiopia) said that the world was facing a food, energy and finance crisis, which was worsening the dire socioeconomic situation of developing countries that had already been hit hard by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. As those multidimensional challenges could undoubtedly jeopardized the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the international community must live up to its existing commitments.

23. The national development plan of Ethiopia from 2020 to 2030 integrated the economic, social and environmental aspects of the Goals in a balanced, indivisible and integrated manner. Ethiopia had made considerable progress in building a sustainable economy that could meet the demand for nutritious food of its growing population while protecting and regenerating its natural resources. His country was implementing sustainable agricultural practices, such as specializing in priority commodities and enabling farmers to sell their product at a good price to viable markets. Such practices also increased agricultural productivity sustainably by expanding crop farming and improving the productivity of smallholder farmers. The lowland heat-resistant varieties of wheat promoted by the Government were already producing encouraging results. The Government had been heavily investing in agriculture to boost agricultural production and productivity since 2018. That effort was expected to enable the country not only to become self-sufficient in wheat production but also to become a net exporter of wheat.

24. Ethiopia was one of the few countries in the world that generated almost all its electricity needs from renewable sources, mostly hydropower. The Government was continuing to take bold, integrated measures to fight the impact of climate change, including by planting more than 25 billion tree seedlings

over the last four years. Despite those efforts, however, Ethiopia remained highly vulnerable to climate change-induced droughts and floods, which threatened its efforts to eradicate poverty and ensure food security. The severe drought currently facing the country was increasing its humanitarian need. It was therefore critical to enhance joint efforts and strengthen cooperation and partnerships on sustainable consumption and production, including by accelerating the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns. In that context, he would welcome support for national efforts to adopt a value-chain approach, scale up vital national fiscal and economic policies and strategies, redirect investments and create innovative financial models to overcome sectoral silos.

25. **Mr. George** (Sierra Leone) said that the looming threat of climate change and more recent global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the food and energy crisis and the war in Ukraine, had clearly demonstrated that it was only through sustained multilateralism, underpinned by the founding principles of the United Nations, that the world could be guaranteed its continued existence. While the devastating impact of those challenges on weak economies could not be overemphasized, all economies were at an increased risk of collapse given their global interconnectedness. Instability and impoverishment in any corner of the world therefore threatened the gains made elsewhere and demonstrated the need for greater resilience through enhanced multilateralism. Beyond emergency actions, global structures and policies must be promoted that could end inequalities among and within nations and enable all developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

26. Sierra Leone was seeking to address the socioeconomic challenges posed by rising inflation and poverty by increasing its focus on harnessing local potential, strengthening economic diversification, enhancing public financial management, deploying digital solutions and promoting a strong gender demographic dividend, among other measures. The Government had scaled up the integration of the “people’s planning process” model in its national development plan. Accordingly, it had re-established development coordination structures in all 16 districts of Sierra Leone and intended to introduce those structures at the village level to increase the decentralization of service delivery.

27. Achieving the Paris Agreement goals of limiting greenhouse gas emissions below 2° Celsius would require a radical change across countries that was reflected in their nationally determined contributions.

During the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, developed countries must fulfil their pledge to provide \$100 billion annually in climate financing to developing countries, with half of that amount allocated to climate adaptation, and a financing facility must also be established. Achieving the Goals and related frameworks would require commitments from all stakeholders at all levels.

28. **Mr. Beleván** (Peru) said that, in the light of the current geopolitical, economic and environmental challenges, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals remained vital and should be a priority for the Committee. Many opportunities had been lost over the past 30 years to create an international order based on the provision of global public goods. Global asymmetries had become more acute, the divide between developing and developed countries had widened and middle-income countries were facing disparities with the developed world, despite global cooperation frameworks. It was now less likely that the Sustainable Development Goals would be achieved and, in many cases, the recovery would be insufficient to return to pre-pandemic levels of economic growth. In addition, uncertainty remained about the long-term impacts of the pandemic on all areas of development, which had been exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine and the rise of inflation.

29. There was a need for international solidarity and cooperation to resolve such global problems. The potential of public policies to deal with shocks and minimize their impacts was clear and an economic collapse had been avoided around the world thanks to increases in public spending and unparalleled transfers of revenue. Short-term policies and long-term structural solutions were needed to address such problems as inequality, technological backwardness and the destruction of the environment. Combating climate change and other challenges required a full recognition of the need for solidarity among citizens of different countries, whose well-being depended on global solutions.

30. Societies had shown that they were able to promote innovative and swift solutions. It was essential to reclaim the concept of citizenship in order to build a new cycle of development policies centred on growth, employment, sustainability and equality. Coordinated actions to strengthen the 2030 Agenda and the Goals, within the framework of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, were fundamental for building a better future. A key part of that strategy was strengthening national statistical offices in order to

accurately measure the Goals and assess progress with their implementation.

31. **Mr. Liu Liqun** (China) said that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 would be a severe challenge as a result of the multiple unfolding crises. The international community should strengthen solidarity and cooperation, and practice true multilateralism, in order to jointly address global challenges and achieve more sustainable and balanced development. It was important to uphold the concept of people-centred development, place development at the centre of the international agenda, promote socioeconomic development and environmental protection in an integrated manner and strengthen the global partnership for development. Coordinated actions must also be taken to address the food and energy crises, ensure a smooth-running global industrial chain and supply chains, and increase support for countries in special situations and African countries, so that no country or individual was left behind.

32. There was a need to build a fair and reasonable global climate governance system that featured win-win cooperation and upheld such important principles as common but differentiated responsibilities. The success of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must also be actively promoted, with favourable results achieved for developing countries in terms of mitigation, adaptation and finance. Developed countries should take the lead in substantially reducing their emissions, immediately deliver on their pledge to mobilize \$100 billion per year in climate finance, and provide developing countries with more financial, technological and capacity-building support.

33. A continued commitment was needed to ensure harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. In that context, it was important to actively promote the process of global biodiversity conservation and to support part two of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in order to achieve an ambitious, pragmatic and balanced post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Synergies should also be promoted at international conferences to build the momentum for global sustainable development.

34. China was honouring its firm commitment to green and low-carbon development that prioritized ecological conservation. It had effectively implemented the Paris Agreement, had announced ambitious carbon peak and carbon neutrality goals, and had launched the world's largest carbon market by volume of emissions trading. China was steadily promoting energy

restructuring and ranked number one in the world in terms of its installed capacity for wind and solar power, and in the production of new energy vehicles. It was also carrying out broad-based South-South cooperation in addressing climate change and in implementing the Global Development Initiative: building on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for stronger, greener and healthier global development, among other initiatives. China looked forward to deepening practical cooperation with all parties in the areas of green development, climate change and energy security within the framework of the Global Development Initiative and the Belt and Road Initiative.

35. **Mr. Kaddouh** (Lebanon) said that the world was facing severe food, energy and financial crises. The global disruption of food supply chains had directly affected his country and the region. Food prices in Lebanon had risen by 2,000 per cent since 2019, exacerbating socioeconomic challenges. Acute food insecurity threatened more than 58 million people in the Middle East and North Africa. Global hunger, climate change, limited access to finance and the energy crisis were all systemic challenges requiring systemic solutions. International solidarity and cooperation among countries was therefore vital, as no country could solve those problems on its own.

36. Lebanon reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening multilateralism and mobilizing the political will needed to defend common interests. To that end, his delegation had been involved in various initiatives during the last few years, including introducing a number of declarations and resolutions on vaccine equity and food security. Those initiatives had fed into the work of the Second Committee and several intergovernmental outcome documents, thereby consolidating common efforts to overcome crises and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

37. Lebanon was facing a financial crisis, exacerbated by the high dependency on Ukrainian and Russian wheat and fertilizer and the humanitarian implications of the Syrian refugee crisis. Lebanon remained the country hosting the largest number of refugees per capita, and could no longer bear the brunt of displacement, which was increasing socioeconomic and political vulnerabilities. The impact of forced displacement on sustainable development should therefore be alleviated, based on the principles of burden-sharing and shared responsibility. Funds allocated for development should not be impacted by humanitarian assistance.

38. The financial system could play an important preventive and proactive role in alleviating the impacts of crises on developing countries, and international

financial institutions must keep supporting multilateral efforts to find sustainable and affordable solutions, including through rechannelling special drawing rights to developing countries in need and through their additional allocation to the countries that needed them the most.

39. In the run-up to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, his delegation wished to emphasize the importance of honouring financial commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and the urgency of accelerating climate action, given its importance for the water-food-energy nexus. The current climate emergency was the result of decades of harmful human actions against nature, wildlife and the planet. In that context, his delegation continued to rely on the Committee's wide support to once again adopt the draft resolution entitled "Oil slick on Lebanese shores" and called upon the international community to take effective, preventive and remedial measures to protect the environment and biodiversity during conflicts.

40. Lastly, new challenges should not overshadow other priorities, such as eradicating poverty, halting illicit financial flows and accelerating the return of stolen assets, empowering all women and girls, achieving gender equality and prioritizing education for all.

41. **Ms. Barba Bustos** (Ecuador) said that her country remained committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda, achieving sustainable development across its economic, social and environmental dimensions and building back better after the COVID-19 pandemic. Her Government's national development plan for the period 2021 to 2025 was aligned with the 2030 Agenda and 123 of the plan's 129 goals were linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.

42. As the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was the main forum for negotiating the global response to that anthropogenic phenomenon, her delegation welcomed the fact that the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention would focus on climate finance, adaptation and loss and damage, and wished to underscore that the implementation of commitments in those areas should be based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. It called on developed countries to meet the goal of providing \$100 billion in funding per year to developing countries and to take the other necessary measures to scale up the ambition of their climate action.

43. Ending biodiversity loss was a priority for Ecuador. As a megadiverse country with unique and fragile ecosystems, it supported the use of sustainable practices to preserve biodiversity for present and future generations, was working to conclude the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and was striving to achieve the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity of "living in harmony with nature". Ecuador invited other countries to endorse the "Political Vision: a 10 Point Plan for Financing Biodiversity", an initiative of Ecuador, Gabon, Maldives and the United Kingdom that sought to achieve consensus in the formal negotiations to be held within the framework of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Similarly, Ecuador had joined global efforts to combat desertification, land degradation and drought, to support access to quality education at all levels, and to promote renewable energy.

44. As a member of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, Ecuador called for negotiating commitments to be made to achieve a robust agreement by 2024. Ecuador also looked forward to the 2023 midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, given that prevention and resilience were essential components of disaster risk reduction.

45. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that his delegation was grateful that there was an understanding that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would require the world to adopt sustainable production and consumption patterns in order to have a positive impact on climate change. The primary role in that regard undoubtedly belonged to Governments, which should also harness the potential of the private sector and other partners, including at the international level. However, as the prerequisite for sustainable consumption, especially food consumption, was the availability of sufficient foodstuffs for people to eat, it was difficult to talk about "sustainable" food consumption in a number of the least developed countries, where people were suffering from hunger as a result of the food crisis. While attempts had been made to link that crisis to the situation in Ukraine, people were going hungry for a number of reasons: the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the political targeting of so-called "undesirable" States through unilateral sanctions and other bans and restrictions, including on major fertilizer and grain producing States such as Belarus and Russia. Unless the root causes of the human-induced crisis were addressed, the problem of hunger in a number of developing countries would not be solved.



46. The Republic of Belarus was fully committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as reaffirmed in July 2022 by the submission of its voluntary national review on progress made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and as shown by the country's position in international sustainable development rankings. Belarus attached great importance to sustainable production and consumption at the national level, the key to which was the transition to a circular or green economy, whose principles were already enshrined in its national development strategy for the period up to 2035. The Government had been consistently implementing measures to introduce green principles in the national economy as a key instrument for ensuring sustainable development in and the environmental security of Belarus.

47. Environmental protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures were integral parts of the country's environmental policy. Belarus remained committed to implementing the Paris Agreement goals and agreed with adhering to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in the context of climate change. The Government had endorsed a new nationally determined contribution for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and was continuing to take practical steps for the restoration of degraded land, the rehabilitation of peat bogs and the recovery of agricultural land affected by the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

48. As global sustainability required solidarity and actions at the national, regional and international levels, there was no place for sanctions and it was unacceptable for international technical assistance to be wound down for political reasons. To achieve environmental security, Belarus therefore called on Poland to resume the fulfilment of its international obligations for the joint preservation of the Belovezhskaya Puschcha Biosphere Reserve.

49. **Ms. Le Thoa Thi Minh** (Viet Nam) said that concrete and meaningful progress was needed in the deliberations to address climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. To address climate and environmental challenges, a holistic approach was needed that put people at the centre of the response while protecting the planet and achieving prosperity. In that process, the needs and specific circumstances of developing countries should be taken into account, including by upholding the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. New and additional public climate finance must be balanced between mitigation and adaptation. It was essential to avoid double counting in the provision of development assistance and climate finance.

50. To turn commitments into concrete actions, States could, inter alia: develop a comprehensive climate and environment action agenda at the national level; align measures and solutions in their legal frameworks and policies; and strengthen climate adaptation and mitigation capacities, the conservation of biodiversity and means of implementation. It was also important to adopt science, technology and innovation as integral elements of national sustainable development strategies that could help promote innovation-driven development and strengthen knowledge-sharing and collaboration in the areas of science and technology.

51. It was vital to promote a sustainable economy, in particular by investing in sustainable, quality and resilient infrastructure, which would also create decent jobs and reduce poverty. At the same time, increasing renewable energy usage and heading towards a greener economy would significantly contribute to that process. Raising public awareness about climate change and environmental degradation was also necessary to enhance public participation in the practice of an eco-friendly lifestyle and living in harmony with nature.

52. While making the best use of domestic resources, international development partners should scale-up long-term climate and environment financing to support developing countries. Her Government had set ambitious climate targets, including net-zero emissions by 2050, and was taking rapid, robust and comprehensive measures, including updating its national strategy on climate change until 2050 and its nationally determined contribution. It would continue to amend and adopt legislation to complete the domestic framework for environment protection. At the same time, it was seeking to mobilize the necessary resources from the public and private sectors and from international partners. In that connection, it welcomed the support of the United Nations in helping to establish the Just Energy Transition Partnership with the Group of Seven. With the continued support of international partners, Viet Nam could fulfil its commitments.

53. **Ms. Alomair** (Saudi Arabia) said that even as the pandemic receded, numerous challenges continued to stand in the way of development, many of them fuelled by geopolitical tensions. Developing countries and the least developed countries were particularly affected. Her country's Saudi Vision 2030 strategy sought to unleash the hidden potential of its resources and people; it had already raised living standards and reduced unemployment across various sectors and social groups. Ensuring economic growth, biological diversity and energy security would require an unprecedented level of cooperation. The Kingdom was working to create a

circular carbon economy that would achieve net zero emissions by 2060.

54. In meeting climate change challenges, a balance needed to be struck between mitigation and adaptation. Maintaining climate-friendly economic growth would require investment and technological assistance based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Saudi Arabia had launched an ambitious national renewable energy programme and hoped to become a major global hydrogen producer by 2030. As part of the Middle East Green Initiative, it had just announced plans to provide clean cooking fuel to over 750 million people around the world. It would also continue to work to stabilize energy markets to help fight inflation and promote economic growth.

55. **Ms. Alameri** (United Arab Emirates) said that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was a priority for the United Arab Emirates, as they represented a significant part of her country's domestic and foreign policies. The Goals remained the foundation on which her country based its development plans, including Vision 2071. By hosting the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2023, the United Arab Emirates hoped to solidify its role as a proactive mediator and strategic partner on climate action. It also hoped to achieve tangible results, turning rhetoric into action. Those efforts reflected her Government's serious outlook towards a sustainable future that relied on renewed leadership and green energy, and building a strong economy on that foundation.

56. The United Arab Emirates was undertaking all necessary steps, including the creation of the first independent authority for climate change which had been launched on 20 September 2022, on the margins of New York Climate Week. The authority would be an independent and neutral entity for climate action, bringing the private and public sectors together, and pushing her country further towards meeting its promises by 2050.

57. Her country had hosted Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week in 2022, with almost 30,000 participants from 150 countries, and more than 600 high-level speakers from across the globe. Almost 300 companies had participated in the event by presenting the newest and most innovative technology in the field of renewable and green energy. Many countries had also participated by setting up pavilions, allowing for an important exchange of best practices.

58. Her country continued to move forward towards more widely using clean energy, and in supporting

projects that aimed to develop the necessary clean technology for all. It would invest 600 billion dirhams by 2050 to ensure the demand for energy was met, and to support the sustainable development of the national economy. Her country's energy strategy for 2050 aimed to merge between renewable and nuclear energy to achieve a balance between economic demands and environmental goals. Renewable energy would encompass 50 percent of her country's energy by 2050.

59. **Ms. El Hilali** (Morocco) said that collective deliberations on sustainable development must be geared towards fostering a forward-looking international environment. The international community would need to take an honest look at global sustainable development, notably the multidimensional impacts of COVID-19 and other pre-existing factors that impacted the collective ability to implement the 2030 Agenda.

60. Morocco had been mobilizing national stakeholders to accelerate the national path towards sustainable development and continued to build on the major initiatives launched with a view to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Morocco was focused mainly on agricultural adaptation to climate change and on reinforcing climate mobility, stability and security nexus. As partnerships and funding were more necessary than ever to help vulnerable countries cope with the climate, food and health crises, Morocco continued to work hand in hand with the African Development Bank and the United Nations system in the field of resilient agriculture, especially in the Sahel and around the Congo Basin.

61. In the run-up to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference, the international community must work with a sense of solidarity and make sure that tangible outcomes could be achieved, especially for African countries and small island developing States, on financing climate adaptation. Moreover, Morocco would continue supporting efforts for energy transition, water management and ocean protection. It was important that climate finance remain holistic in various sectors of the economy, in order to create fair and new economic alternatives for developing countries. The international community must also redouble its efforts to strengthen global coordination on fighting plastic pollution and must address the challenges of desertification, land degradation and water scarcity, as well as the need for disaster risk reduction.

62. Morocco had been going through a strategic process to reform and renew its development model since 2019, and would continue to implement measures and plans to improve the lives of its citizens. That

process would promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially through the establishment of a monitoring mechanism, under which the task of tracking, evaluating and preparing an annual report on the Goals had been assigned to the High Commission for Planning, the national independent institution responsible for statistics.

63. **Mr. Al-khalidi** (Iraq) said that Iraq had been among the countries cited as vulnerable to climate change by the sixth report in the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Environment Outlook series. Its progress on the Sustainable Development Goals was being threatened by a host of problems – all ultimately traceable to water scarcity – that included land degradation, desertification, loss of vegetative cover, decline in biological diversity and increased soil salinization. Despite its economic situation, Iraq had declared its nationally determined contribution as a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and remained committed to the sustainable use of resources for the sake of future generations.

64. Iraq was an energy-producing country and also a country vulnerable to climate change. It was committed to both affordable energy for all and the sovereignty of countries over their energy resources. Measures to address climate change should be based on the principle of differentiated responsibilities. Iraq looked forward to international assistance for its national mitigation and adaptation strategies. It was particularly affected by sandstorms, which destroyed vegetative cover, posed threats to air traffic and exacerbated respiratory problems and other symptoms related to COVID-19. Since water scarcity was the ultimate cause of so many problems, it was of the utmost importance to agree on an international mechanism on transboundary water resources.

65. **Mr. Leschenko** (Ukraine) said that, that very morning, the Russian Federation had started massive missile strikes across Ukraine. Cruise missiles and kamikaze drones launched from Russia and Belarus had targeted residential areas, power stations, railways, trade centres and bridges in different cities across the country. Following the morning attacks on Kyiv alone, at least 8 people had been killed and 24 injured. The overall death toll was rising as rescuers dug into the debris of destroyed infrastructure. Russia had launched its terror campaign during the morning rush hour when people were coming to work and children were going to school. Russia's aim was to cause the utmost death and destruction among civilians. The deliberate targeting of critical civilian infrastructure was a war crime. Russia was striking power stations, which had no military

purpose, to deprive the civilian population of their basic needs – heat, electricity and water – amid the onset of cold temperatures. Taken together, the actions directed against Ukrainians by Russia since 24 February 2022 amounted to genocide.

66. The ongoing full-scale unprovoked and unjustified war waged by Russia against Ukraine had seriously undermined progress on almost all the Sustainable Development Goals. One example was the challenges faced in the implementation of Goal 15 on ecosystems, forests, desertification, land degradation and biodiversity. The environmental damage inflicted by the Russian Federation on Ukraine since 24 February had reached a colossal scale: dozens of oil depots with tens of thousands of tons of oil products had been blown up by missiles of the Russian Federation; there was damage to oil, gas and ammonia pipelines; and targeted strikes had hit storage sites with other dangerous substances. As a result, there was significant water, soil and air pollution. The consequences were also being felt by the countries neighbouring Ukraine. The water areas of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov had been polluted by the spill of oil products and other dangerous substances, which negatively affected the ecosystems of both seas. Attacks and dangerous actions by the Russian Federation around Ukrainian nuclear power plants continued to create the risk of an environmental disaster. Russian troops had captured the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the largest in Europe, and were using it as a military base. The ongoing hostilities and damage, caused by missiles and bombs in forests posed a serious threat to the biodiversity of Ukraine. As a result of fires caused by Russian attacks, vast territories of forests were damaged. The timely elimination of forest fires was being complicated by hostilities and mines. That also applied to grain fields deliberately set on fire by the occupying forces, in particular in the southern regions of Ukraine. The Ukrainian Government continued to record the numerous crimes by Russia against the environment in the territory of Ukraine.

67. By waging war against Ukraine, Russia had created an existential threat to the world and had brought unprecedented and long-lasting challenges to the environment and human habitat. The international community must consolidate its efforts to exert pressure on Russia to put an end to the brutal and unjustified war. That would essentially contribute to stabilizing the situation in the world, making the world safer and bringing it closer to achieving the Goals.

68. **Ms. Hettiwelige** (Sri Lanka) said that the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and rising geopolitical tensions had had multifaceted impacts on people, the planet, prosperity

and peace. In that context, the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development had become extremely challenging, especially for developing countries such as Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, the Government of Sri Lanka was committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. To that end, it had enacted the Sustainable Development Act in 2017, which had established the Sustainable Development Council as the national coordinating, facilitating, monitoring, evaluating and reporting institution for the implementation of the Goals. The Government was also committed to providing free education and universal health care to all its citizens. It had highlighted the country's progress and challenges in achieving the 2030 Agenda during the presentation of its second voluntary national review at the high-level political forum in July 2022.

69. As a country with high biodiversity, policies and initiatives for addressing climate change and protecting biodiversity were at the forefront of the transition to a blue-green economy at the national and subnational levels. Sri Lanka was home to bountiful ecosystems that included mangrove forests, tidal marshes, seagrass beds and coral reefs. It had more than 20 species of true mangroves, around one third of all mangrove species in the world. In Sri Lanka, all mangroves were legally protected from destruction and degradation.

70. The development of irrigation systems, dams, better drinking water access and sanitary facilities had all contributed to Sri Lanka's rural transformation. A national centre for disaster relief had also been established to deal with droughts, floods, landslides and cyclones, and a road map for a safer Sri Lanka had been developed to guide disaster preparedness, planning and implementation in the country. Furthermore, an initiative had been undertaken to amend the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act to reflect current disaster risk challenges and trends in accordance with the Sendai Framework. Land degradation in Sri Lanka had developed dramatically over the past few decades, having a negative impact on biodiversity, land productivity and poverty levels. The Government was committed to implementing 25 programmes over a 10-year period in order to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030. National land degradation neutrality goals had been formulated in 2017.

71. It was crucial to pursue diplomacy and peace, adopt low-carbon resilient and inclusive development pathways and transform the international financial and debt architecture. As urgent and collective action was needed to preserve nature and rescue the Goals, Sri Lanka remained committed to forging partnerships

and fostering international cooperation to achieve sustainable development.

72. **Mr. Mohamed Hussain** (Maldives) said that sustainable development was essential for peace and prosperity. However, the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with an escalating climate crisis and the conflict in Ukraine, had compounded existing challenges while adding new obstacles to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It was critical for the international community to work together with a renewed purpose, draw from past lessons and pick up the pace in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. The window to prevent irreparable harm from climate change was rapidly closing. Indeed, 2021 had been one of the warmest years on record. Even a slight increase in global average temperature would mean an alarming rise in sea level. For Maldives and other small island developing States, that represented an existential threat. There remained only eight years to reduce global emissions by 43 per cent and to limit warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as set out in the Paris Agreement. However, fossil fuel emissions from the previous year had broken historic records.

73. While small island developing States made only a miniscule contribution to global carbon emissions, they would be the first to bear the consequences. Countries needed to formulate ambitious climate action plans to cut emissions and adapt to climate change. His country was leading by example, having set a target of net-zero emissions by 2030, one of the most ambitious decarbonization efforts of any country. In 2022 it had also launched the Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation, with a view to supporting global action on adaptation. However, achieving ambitious goals required ambitious funding commitments and unfortunately the international community was far short of meeting its \$100 billion pledge in climate financing. Efforts must be scaled up in that regard, as agreed under the Glasgow Climate Pact in 2021, and good faith negotiations were needed at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to ensure that an ambitious and effective loss and damage financing mechanism was achieved.

74. Protecting the ocean was vital to the lives, culture and traditions of his country's people, and the degradation and warming of the ocean represented a serious and existential threat to Maldives. It therefore continued to support the global initiative to protect 30 per cent of the world's oceans by 2030. Domestically, a series of measures had been adopted to reduce plastic pollution and its impact on the fragile marine

environment, including a ban on the import, production and sale of several types of single-use plastics, and a national target had been set to fully phase out single-use plastics by 2030.

75. More than ever, sustainable fishing methods were critical to ensuring the economic and food security of local communities in small island developing States and developing countries. Maldives was recognized as a sustainable fishery champion because of its continued promotion of the use of pole and line and hand-line fishing. It was also actively protecting its national waters from illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing practices through the implementation of stringent policies and laws. However, greater action was needed to encourage the sustainable use of ocean resources and to deter harmful and illegal practices through the elimination of subsidies.

76. Despite the strong recovery of its tourism industry, his country remained highly vulnerable to the ebb and flow of geopolitics, pandemics and other exogenous shocks. The unique sets of challenges and vulnerabilities that small island developing countries faced were well known to the Committee and the United Nations system.

77. **Mr. Andrianov** (Russian Federation) said that the international community must recognize the importance of decisive, comprehensive and balanced measures to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. His delegation called for the holistic consideration of sustainable development so that progress could be achieved across its economic, social and environmental dimensions.

78. It was important to continue undertaking efforts to combat climate change, to step up adaptation measures and to develop early warning and response systems. All members of the international community should participate constructively and without politicization in the work of the forthcoming twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in view of the overriding importance of climate issues for all humanity.

79. His country was committed to meeting the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to below 2°Celsius. The key to success was consistent and coordinated work to meet the existing obligations undertaken. Efforts to preserve biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources were an integral part of global environmental efforts. Given the difficulties encountered in implementing the goals set over the past decade, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity should be both effective and balanced.

80. In view of the worsening water situation in many regions of the world, his delegation welcomed the holding in 2023 of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018–2028. A unifying socioeconomic water agenda would be the key to the success of the United Nations 2023 Water Conference. In the context of the Decade for Action, his delegation noted the importance of the degradation of the cryosphere.

81. The sustainable use and technological development of both renewable and conventional energy sources was advisable, alongside efforts to improve energy efficiency. Such a balanced approach would help to achieve the goal of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Given the ongoing energy crisis, natural gas and nuclear power, as cleaner energy sources, alongside the introduction of modern, more effective technologies, showed great potential for achieving energy security.

82. Although the delegation of Ukraine had allowed itself to politicize the work of the Second Committee, the Committee should focus on the issues listed on its agenda.

83. **Ms. Zamora Zumbado** (Costa Rica) said that natural disasters and extreme weather events were increasing in intensity and frequency around the world. It was clear that climate change, biodiversity loss, the degradation of ecosystems and pollution were interconnected and mutually reinforcing problems. They were symptoms of an economic and development model that was not consistent with the vision of an inclusive, resilient and sustainable future. Efforts and resources must therefore be redirected towards a new agenda for global well-being that took into account structural gaps and climate risks. The midterm review of the Sendai Framework would help to build coherence with other processes and to address risks more systematically.

84. Vulnerable countries experiencing the severest impacts of climate change needed mitigation and adaptation efforts to be stepped up. The twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provided an opportunity for the major emitters, and the global community as a whole, to act boldly to fulfil the pledge of providing \$100 billion per year in climate financing and take the decisive action required in the areas of adaptation and loss and damage. Her delegation

also called on all parties to undertake the necessary commitments at part two of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to reach agreement on an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Furthermore, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfers must be commensurate with the challenges being faced.

85. The United Nations 2023 Water Conference was a key moment to address important synergies and reach an understanding that water was a global public good whose conservation required multilateralism and international action. Costa Rica had offered to co-host, in 2025, the third United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. It would continue to pursue better governance of the oceans through joint initiatives and was extending protected zones, establishing biological reserves and increasing the size of national parks as part of its commitment to conserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change.

86. The climate crisis was essentially a human rights crisis. Her delegation therefore welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly on 28 July 2022 of a draft resolution recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

87. **Mr. Pedroso Cuesta** (Cuba) said that the goal of zero hunger by 2030 would be nothing other than a political promise and it was unsustainable consumer societies that were the underlying cause of the current challenges facing the world. While the countries of the Group of 20 were responsible for 80 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, 77 per cent of the population of Africa continued to lack access to electricity. Rather than looking beyond the 2030 Agenda to future commitments, decisive action was now needed on what had already been pledged. Developed countries must meet their commitments and historic responsibilities, reduce excessive military spending and redouble their efforts to deal with climate change and save humanity from environmental disaster.

88. There must also be an end to the unilateral coercive economic measures that were affecting almost a third of the world's population. Not leaving any person or country behind meant recognizing respect for biodiversity in national development models and respect for the sovereignty, self-determination and individual priorities of countries. Cuba had paid a very high price for defending its legitimate right to exist as a sovereign

independent nation and, for over 60 years, had resisted a unilateral economic, commercial and financial blockade.

89. Nevertheless, the Government and people of Cuba had spared no effort to make progress towards a more just, prosperous and sustainable socialist society. The country had its own vaccine and public health system and had sent 58 medical brigades to 42 countries during the height of the pandemic. Cuba continued to reject the genocidal blockade and the hegemonic attempt to impose a single economic model on the world.

90. **Ms. Denton-Watts** (Jamaica) said that, as a small island developing State, Jamaica grappled with inherent vulnerabilities and exogenous factors, which were inimical to its developmental agenda and its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented challenges had laid bare national vulnerabilities, highlighting the pre-existing inequities in the international development system and reversing the hard-fought progress made to bolster resilience and stabilize the socioeconomic fabric of society.

91. Small island developing States continued to bear the lingering effects of the pandemic, the food and energy crises, the war in Ukraine, as well as natural disasters and climate emergencies. The situation had been exacerbated by the limited fiscal space and capacity to manage the deleterious physical, social and economic impacts of those numerous challenges. It was therefore imperative for recovery efforts to be supported by robust and innovative solutions that went in tandem with national sustainable development objectives.

92. The presentation by Jamaica of its second voluntary national review at the high-level political forum in July 2022 was a demonstration of the commitment of the Government of Jamaica to the full implementation of Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the Goals. Despite the setbacks in its developmental priorities, Jamaica remained resolute in its commitment to advance social and economic development, the protection of human capital and the promotion of resilience in social and economic infrastructures, in order to ensure that a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery was pursued in line with Vision 2030, her country's national development plan. Since the implementation of the plan, which was 98.8 per cent aligned with the Goals, significant strides had been made towards the creation of an enabling environment, a cohesive and just society, a prosperous economy and a healthy natural environment in which citizens could achieve their full potential.

93. Jamaica remained firm in its position that the successful implementation of the Goals must be

underpinned by the fulfilment of the range of commitments embodied in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement. It was therefore of the utmost importance that successes to date be enhanced and strengthened through solidarity, the exchange of support, and multilateral cooperation and partnership. A strong and effective commitment to meet the Goals also required the United Nations development system to be fully equipped and resourced to meet the prioritized needs of Member States.

94. Jamaica continued to underscore the intricate nexus between climate resilience and the Goals. The vulnerability of Jamaica to the effects of climate change and its estimated economic costs continued to present an existential threat. As a result, it was seeking to prioritize reducing vulnerability and building resilience, and called upon the developed world to ensure that climate change targets included commitments to address adaptation and provide for a facility for loss and damage. Jamaica looked forward to the scaling-up of concrete action to halve emissions by 2030 and to limit global temperature rises to 1.5° Celsius in order to protect people and the planet.

95. Financing for development was a key driver to support more sustainable growth and the recovery of national economies. Access to financing options remained a challenge for Jamaica, however, especially since its classification as a middle-income country curtailed access to critical ODA funding for developmental needs, thereby threatening economic growth and development.

96. **Ms. Kho** (Brunei Darussalam) said that although her country was a minimal contributor to the global greenhouse gas emissions, its exposure to the impacts of climate change was very high, especially in the capital city, Bandar Seri Begawan, and on areas along the coastline. It had been projected by the year 2100 that the sea-level would rise by 0.70 to 0.79 metres and in the next 30 years Brunei Darussalam was likely to experience an increase in temperature at a rate of 0.23°C per decade.

97. In that context, Brunei Darussalam was taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts under Sustainable Development Goal 13. In 2020, a national climate change policy had been launched to pave the way towards a low carbon and climate-resilient future through 10 key strategies. One of the strategies included increasing the carbon sink through afforestation and reforestation. With 72 per cent forest

coverage, Brunei Darussalam had one of the highest carbon sinks relative to its size and 41 per cent of that coverage had been set aside as forest reserves. The aim was to increase that figure to 55 per cent, including by planting 500,000 new trees by 2035. The national climate change policy was in line with a national vision that aimed to develop and maintain a high quality of life, while ensuring the preservation of the natural environment. The policy was the outcome of multi-stakeholder engagement and had a strong emphasis on a whole-of-nation approach involving public, private and non-governmental organizations as part of a climate solution.

98. Her country had agreed to establish an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Climate Change in Brunei Darussalam, with a view to enhancing the region's climate change coordination and cooperation. The Centre aimed to serve as a hub for climate research and climate change-related policymaking recommendations, and to help the ASEAN region to prepare for climate change challenges. Such small regional efforts could help contribute to international efforts to address climate change and achieve the Goals, particularly Goal 13.

99. Brunei Darussalam was fully committed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the goals of the Paris Agreement, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances. Brunei Darussalam remained steadfast in its commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent relative to the business-as-usual level by 2030, as communicated in its nationally determined contribution submitted in December 2020. The country had also expressed its intention to move towards net-zero emissions by 2050, primarily through energy transition and forest preservation. Climate change was a global issue and while addressing it was not an easy task, the global community must act immediately and must act together.

100. **Mr. Xaiyavong** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that his Government attached great importance to the 2030 Agenda and had streamlined the Sustainable Development Goals into its national socioeconomic development plans. To supervise national implementation of the Goals, a Steering Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister has been established, underlining the whole-of-Government approach taken. Over the years, significant progress had been made, particularly in poverty reduction and agricultural and food production, and core health indicators had also improved. The country had also made remarkable efforts to identify and implement

measures to mitigate climate change. A national green growth strategy had laid out a vision of transformation that supported the Government's long-term sustainable development ambitions.

101. To address the specific development challenge of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a national Sustainable Development Goal had been adopted to address the prolonged impacts of unexploded ordnance and to focus on clearing contaminated lands. However, a recent decrease in funding from key donors had hampered the efforts to provide safer areas for farmers and development activities, as unexploded ordnance continued to pose a major threat, especially to children. Numerous other challenges also remain to be addressed. The COVID-19 pandemic had revealed vulnerabilities and inequalities and threatened to revert the hard-earned developmental gains. While the country had been recommended to graduate from least developed status, its development aspirations would remain a challenging task.

102. Following his country's successful presentation of its second voluntary national review in 2020, it was building ministerial capacities to ensure the effective translation of the Government's commitment into actions. However, administrative data systems still needed to be harmonized, streamlined and strengthened, and institutional and statistical capacity-building would need to be enhanced. Support from development partners and international organizations would be fundamental in providing the resources and knowledge to accelerate the achievement of the Goals.

103. **Mr. Leucă** (Republic of Moldova) said that while the world was striving to cope with multiple crises exacerbated by the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the climate crisis continued to unfold and required immediate interventions at the global level. His delegation fully supported the Secretary-General's calls for urgent upscaled actions on climate change in terms of both mitigation and adaptation and his country stood ready to contribute to a shared global response to ensure that the world was on the track to reach the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050. To that end, his Government had prioritized environmental problems by adopting urgent policies to overcome the climate crisis.

104. The Republic of Moldova remained fully committed to the objective of keeping the global average temperature well below 2°C and to the environment dimension of the 2030 Agenda. It had been among the first countries to present its updated nationally determined contribution in 2020 and the Government's new unconditional target was to reduce

its greenhouse gas emissions by 70 per cent below its 1990 level in 2030. However, to achieve that ambitious outcome, external financial support equivalent to \$2.6 billion annually would be required until 2030.

105. The Government's priorities on greenhouse gas emission reduction would be reinforced by actions aimed at, inter alia, expanding forest areas, fostering energy efficiency and renewable energy and promoting the responsible use of water resources, as well as sustainable production and consumption practices and efficient waste management technologies. Accordingly, the following three main priorities had been set by the Government to be achieved in 2022: significantly reducing the volumes of uncontrolled landfilled waste with maximum recovery, to reach the objective of zero landfills; improving water quality through strategic actions, including the efficient management of wastewater and water resources of transboundary rivers; and expanding reforested areas by 100,000 hectares during the period 2022 to 2031. In the same vein, the adaptation and mitigation aspects of climate change would be addressed via two strategies: a low emissions development strategy for the period until 2030 and a national adaptation strategy, which were both presently under review.

106. **Ms. Adnan** (Malaysia) said that, while the COVID-19 pandemic had taken away years of progress on poverty eradication under Sustainable development Goal 1, Malaysia would continue integrating the Goals into its twelfth development plan. The Government had recently announced an allocation of \$300 million in 2023 for projects involving all 17 Goals and was pressing forward on localizing the Goals through a whole-of-nation approach.

107. Climate action must not be delayed, as the window to avoid climate catastrophe was closing rapidly. It had therefore become more imperative than ever to assist vulnerable countries in their efforts towards climate action. In that regard, Malaysia called for developed countries to fulfil their annual commitment of \$100 billion in supporting adaptation and mitigation measures in developing countries. The Malaysian Government itself would be spending \$3 billion until 2030 as a long-term adaptation strategy against flooding in the country. In order to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, business as usual could no longer continue. To support the ambition of maintaining a healthy planet, her Government had submitted an Environmental Quality Act which would increase punishments, fines and penalties for environmental offenders.



108. Geopolitical tensions had triggered global energy shocks and had jeopardized progress towards sustainable development. Malaysia stressed the importance of ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and the need for increased levels of investment in energy transition. Furthermore, political will and international cooperation must be strengthened to assist developing countries in gaining better access to energy, including by upgrading the technology supplying renewable and sustainable energy. In Malaysia, the implementation of the national energy policy 2022–2040 included increasing the percentage of renewable energy supply from 7 per cent to 17 per cent and reducing the percentage of coal in installed capacity from 31 per cent to 18 per cent. Malaysia was also encouraging the use of electric vehicles, with a target to increase their share from less than 1 per cent to 38 per cent. No effort must be spared to implement the 2030 Agenda, despite the multiple crises. Everything possible must be done to avoid the risk of future crises and more must be done to rescue the Goals while there was still time.

109. **Mr. Teoh** (Singapore) said that the world was facing a confluence of multiple crises: recovery from COVID-19 remained uneven and fragile; the climate crisis was increasingly a clear and present threat; the global commons were deteriorating rapidly; and ecological resources were under severe strain. To make matters worse, all those threats and crises were interacting with and compounding each other in a vicious circle. They represented existential issues for small island States, including Singapore as a country vulnerable to extreme weather events and rising sea levels, and to food insecurity and water scarcity exacerbated by climate change. At the same time, the only way to ride out that “perfect storm” was for all countries, large or small, to work together.

110. First, the international community must step up its collective ambition to tackle climate change. It must take immediate action to progressively decarbonize economies and transition to a cleaner and more sustainable future. As a small island State, Singapore was disadvantaged by a lack of natural renewable energy sources. However, it had just raised its climate ambition to achieve net zero emissions by or around mid-century. The Government was committed to supporting global efforts to tackle climate change, including at the upcoming twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

111. Second, the world must build up its resilience to better address food and energy insecurity. That was an important issue for small States, as they were heavily

reliant on imports and disproportionately affected by any disruptions in global supply chains. Singapore therefore strongly supported the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, established by the Secretary-General as a key initiative to address those challenges. Technology and innovation would also play a key role in efforts to enhance food and energy security. Singapore aimed to produce 30 per cent of its nutritional needs locally and sustainably by 2030 through the leveraging of innovative technologies.

112. Third, international cooperation must be strengthened in managing the global commons, including water, biodiversity and the oceans. There was a pressing need for joint work to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the global commons by using resources more efficiently, minimizing waste and shifting towards more sustainable and circular economic models. In that regard, Singapore fully supported the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, and called on all delegations to expedite the conclusion of a robust treaty on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

113. **Mr. Coraiola Yinde Kloss** (Brazil) said that multiple and mutually reinforcing crises were creating vicious circles which, in turn, were increasing instability and uncertainties around the world, making it particularly challenging to keep moving forward towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Progress on many Sustainable Development Goals had stalled, while on others it had even been reversed. Adequate means of implementation were of paramount importance to put the implementation of the 2030 Agenda back on track.

114. While a clear collective commitment had been made at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to keep the 1.5° Celsius temperature goal alive, the challenge of translating the outcomes of that session into concrete and meaningful actions must include urgently fulfilling the long overdue goal of \$100 billion in climate financing and ensuring swift and robust progress in defining a new collective quantified goal in that regard. His delegation hoped to see concrete progress at the twenty-seventh session on climate finance, as well as on adaptation and loss and damage.

115. It was important to recognize the importance of cooperation and partnerships, as well as the need to mobilize new and additional financial resources and means of implementation in a broader sense, to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to address biodiversity loss around the world. In that

context, he wished to recall that article 20 of the Convention on Biological Diversity laid out the obligation of developed countries regarding financing. In that regard, Brazil supported the idea of establishing a global biodiversity fund to ensure adequate and predictable resource mobilization. Recalling the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, his delegation wished to reiterate that there could be no implementation without adequate finance, capacity-building and technology transfer.

116. **Ms. Elsaed** (Egypt) said that her country's Egypt Vision 2030 strategy contained numerous sustainable development initiatives, including the Decent Life anti-poverty initiative, which targeted over 60 million rural residents at a cost of \$52 billion over three years. She hoped that the upcoming twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – which was being hosted by her country – would take steps to transform climate pledges into reality on the ground, in particular the commitment to double financing for adaptation made at the previous year's twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties held in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

117. Negotiations on climate change measures should be based on the principles of fairness, common but differentiated responsibilities and historical responsibility. In connection with biological diversity, desertification and sand and dust storms, she reminded the Committee of the initiative for greater coordination in implementation of the three Rio conventions put forward by Egypt when it hosted the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2018. Egypt looked forward to the adoption of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework at part two of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Montreal, Canada from 7 to 19 December 2022. Egypt had set the goal of getting 42 per cent of its energy from new and renewable sources by 2035. It had just opened the massive Benban Solar Park and was also investing in new technologies such as green hydrogen.

118. **Mr. Faqira** (Mozambique) said that while considerable progress had been made towards the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the international community was far from achieving its seven global targets by 2030. It was therefore unfortunate that the number of disaster events was rising just as ecosystems were at risk; current societal, political and economic choices were not in line with the commitments to reduce risk contained in the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement; the number of persons

affected by disaster had risen; economic losses due to disaster events remained high; the cost of inaction was being felt in all countries; and the COVID-19 pandemic had accelerated the creation of new risks, including by exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities.

119. The geographical location of Mozambique unfortunately made it vulnerable to natural disasters. The country had been cyclically and intensively affected by depressions, tropical cyclones, rains and strong winds, floods and droughts that had caused the loss of human lives, the displacement of persons, extensive damage to infrastructure and the disruption of socioeconomic activities. Given that, between 2019 and 2022 alone Mozambique had been hit by six cyclones, the Government had defined disaster risk management as top priority. The reduction of the vulnerability of communities, the economy and infrastructure to climate risks and natural and anthropogenic disasters was one of the strategic objectives of the Government's programme for the period 2020–2024. The Government had also introduced a set of legal reforms and specific programmes aimed at reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and economy of Mozambique. Such actions reinforced the role that the President of the Republic of Mozambique had been playing in his capacity as the African Union Champion of Disaster Risk Management.

120. As disaster had no borders, international cooperation was essential. Mozambique, in coordination with the countries of the southern region of Africa and cooperation partners, had therefore established the Centre for Humanitarian and Emergency Operations of the Southern African Development Community. However, resources were needed to operationalize the Centre. He called upon bilateral and multilateral partners, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to work together and fulfil their commitment under the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework.

121. **Mr. Flores** (Honduras) said that the United Nations was at a critical moment in its history as a result of complex, interconnected and unprecedented crises. As a founding member of the Organization, Honduras had a joint responsibility to find common solutions and build a more sustainable and resilient world for current and future generations as part of a concerted response, based on multilateralism and the principles of international law.

122. Progress must continue to be made towards people-centred sustainable development. As nature was an indivisible part of sustainable development, his delegation remained concerned by the loss of biodiversity and biological species. Economies must be

managed in a way that could allow for the sustainable development of ecological resources beyond solely market considerations. While progress could be made through scientific innovations, such innovations must allow for sustainable patterns of production and consumption that were in harmony with nature.

123. The priority for the Government of Honduras was to rebuild the country and to meet the people's needs through economic, political and social transformations. Its people-centred recovery strategies incorporated nature as a whole in terms of biodiversity, the oceans and climate. Science, technology and capacity-building could all support the transition towards a sustainable and resilient recovery.

124. Honduras remained firmly committed to the fundamental principles enshrined in existing multilateral environmental agreements. In that regard, his delegation looked forward to the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

125. **Mr. Dioum** (Senegal) said that energy remained a major challenge for developing countries, especially in Africa where over 600 million people lacked access to electricity. The lack of such access affected the transformation of the economy, education, health, agriculture, food security and industry on the African continent. However, access to reliable, sustainable, modern and affordable energy was essential to meet human development needs and achieve many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

126. As the continent's overall greenhouse gas emissions were already low, the real question was not how to reduce its carbon footprint but rather how Africa could make the most of its existing resources in a sustainable manner to meet the growing demand for the energy that it needed for economic development while also honouring its global climate commitments. To find that balance, technical capacities must be increased to build and maintain the infrastructure for effective energy services and products. Science, technology and innovation could help to make renewable energy technologies a global public good, including through the abolition of intellectual property rules that impeded technology transfer. Research and development could also help to provide innovative solutions, in particular regarding the use of renewable energy. Appropriate and predictable financing was also essential. The issue of bilateral and multilateral debt must also be seriously addressed, as it represented a burden on fragile

economies. Multilateral banks, development financing institutions and commercial banks should contribute by increasing their investments.

127. His country had always prioritized the diversification of energy sources and the modernization of the energy sector. Senegal was one of the first West African countries to have adopted a law on renewable energies, in 1998; it had the first solar panel factory in the subregion; and more than 30 per cent of its energy mix was renewable energy. It also supported regional energy cooperation as a member of the West African Energy Pool agency, and was also a member of two regional organizations for the development of hydropower: the Senegal River Basin Development Organization and the Gambia River Basin Development Organization.

128. Senegal would continue to advocate for the African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Transition, including at the forthcoming twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

129. **Ms. Ríos Serna** (Colombia) said that the world was facing multiple interconnected crises that had made it increasingly difficult to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The result of prioritizing economic gains over the environment was profound inequality, millions living in extreme poverty, mass extinctions and the survival of humanity itself was now threatened.

130. As a megadiverse country that was highly vulnerable to climate change, Colombia was committed to seeking social, climate and environmental justice. A decisive call was needed to update commitments in all areas of climate action. All countries, especially the developed countries and the major emitters among the Group of 20, must reduce their emissions. The enormous gaps in means of implementation, especially for adaptation and loss and damage, continued to grow every day. A strong commitment was needed from developed countries commensurate with the needs faced, especially in the developing world.

131. Making peace with nature meant adopting an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Nature-based solutions were cost-effective policies that could have positive impacts on nature, the climate and communities. In that context, her delegation welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of a draft resolution recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

132. Sustainable models of consumption and production must be promoted. It was essential to

recognize the progress made on the circular economy and to support the negotiations on a new binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

133. Lastly, it was essential to promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. The financial and economic crisis had shown that renewable energies were more resistant to external shocks, but developing them had been affected by interruptions in global supply chains. Progress must be made in a fair, equitable and secure transition to renewable energy sources that would have a positive impact on communities and help to reduce the gap between rural and urban areas. To that end, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing countries were an urgent necessity.

134. **Ms. Chelemu** (Zambia) said that her country remained firmly committed to the eradication of poverty, the promotion of sustainable development and efforts to combat climate change, which were all interconnected issues. The Government was currently implementing its eighth national development plan for the period from 2022 to 2026, which was aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The plan had a strong focus on environmental sustainability and emphasized climate action and disaster response, based on lessons learned from previous national development plans.

135. However, the Government was deeply concerned by the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and waste, which not only had the potential to reverse the development gains achieved by Zambia to date but also represented a serious threat to human survival. The adoption of efforts to combat climate change was a key priority for Africa, which was already experiencing increased floods, droughts and extreme temperatures. The twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must deliver ambitious outcomes, particularly on climate financing and loss and damage. In that regard, developed countries must meet their commitment to provide \$100 billion per year to developing countries.

136. Through the collective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, developing countries like Zambia could embrace their ability to adapt to the diverse impacts of climate change, foster climate resilience and transition to low emissions development in a way that did not threaten sustainable food production and consumption. Zambia was interested in expanding the use of renewable energy in its energy mix. It also called for an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

137. **Mr. Nunes** (Timor-Leste) said that as the COVID-19 pandemic had halted hard-won progress toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the international community must put the Goals back on track and address multidimensional poverty. The Government of Timor-Leste was committed to achieving the Goals and it placed people at the centre of its development trajectory in an inclusive spirit of leaving no one behind. The Government's updated strategic development plan for 2011 to 2030 highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and poverty alleviation in all dimensions. The plan emphasized the importance of investing in quality education, improving the health-care system, promoting nutrition and providing adequate sustainable infrastructure to empower the people and laid the groundwork for inclusive and productive economic growth, which would have a positive impact on reducing extreme poverty. The Government was striving to increase access to electricity across the country and continued to invest in renewable energies and the enormous potential of solar power to promote green carbon pathways. Timor-Leste would present its second voluntary national review at the high-level political forum.

138. The cascading impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and conflicts were having impact on food and nutrition, energy, health, education, the environment, and peace and security. Small island developing States, the least developed countries and countries affected by conflicts were the most vulnerable. The multiple crises had amplified structural vulnerabilities, making recovery efforts even more difficult. A global recovery after the pandemic would only occur when all countries, large or small, weak or strong, recovered together.

139. Biodiversity was the life-support system for all human beings and Timor-Leste wished to emphasize the strong relationship between people and nature to sustain life. Confronted by environmental degradation as a result of deforestation, pollution and unsustainable agricultural practices, the Government had ratified the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and was doing its part to strengthen climate change adaptation efforts and restore peace with nature by protecting biodiversity, including forests, the sea and maritime habitats; it had identified several protected areas for ecosystem conservation and tree planting; and it was engaged in restoring local forests, mangroves and coral reefs.

*The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.*