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Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 4 July 2013, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Osorio.....(Colombia)

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

Thematic debate: “The contribution of the Economic and Social Council to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda as a principal body for policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development and for the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals”

Panel I: Shaping the post-2015 development agenda

The President said that the Economic and Social Council was in a unique position to contribute to the elaboration and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and to its follow-up. The Economic and Social Council system had accumulated extensive knowledge and experience in following up on major summits and conferences. Its role as a global dialogue, policymaking and accountability platform had been greatly enhanced by the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum. Since the 2005 World Summit for Social Development, it had also been tracking progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and providing policy guidance on overcoming obstacles to development.

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the Council had been reaffirmed as a principal body for policy review, dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic, social and environmental development. Its role in coordination, coherence and oversight had also been reaffirmed, and its key role in achieving the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, had been recognized.

In the post-2015 framework, the Council could contribute as a key platform for global monitoring, accountability and coordination in implementing the United Nations development agenda and could continue to bring the dialogue on development to an even wider range of stakeholders.

Despite the progress made in implementing the Millennium Development Goals, notably in poverty reduction, trends were uneven in and between cities and regions. Priorities that had not received attention, such as decent work and the reduction of inequality, should become the focus of the new framework for development. The new agenda should identify a strategy in which poverty reduction took pride of place but in a context of sustainability and inclusiveness, with new patterns of consumption. The post-2015 development agenda should thus be conceived as a global inclusive agenda with specific objectives, and should aim to achieve results that were irreversible. The strategy should encourage job creation and favour environmental sustainability.

The President invited Mr. David Steven, Senior Fellow and Associate Director of the Center for International Cooperation at New York University, to act as Moderator.

Mr. Wu Hongbo (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda were well under way. Some important analytical inputs, such as the report of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, had been well received. Others were still to come: a Special Event towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals was to be convened by the President of the General Assembly in September 2013 and reports from the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing were awaited. The process, it was hoped, would result in a single global development framework that built on success and addressed the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals.

In the intergovernmental processes, the United Nations had a clear and complementary role in ensuring that the post-2015 development agenda successfully integrated sustainable development into a unified development framework. Member States should give guidance and the United Nations system must provide the information and analysis needed to enable them to reach informed conclusions and recommendations. All stakeholders must work with Member States and the United Nations system to ensure the success of the undertaking.

Regional development priorities and actions were growing in importance and regional specificities needed to be taken into account. The United Nations regional commissions, as a part of the Economic and Social Council system, should continue their support of regional development work and continue to feed regional experience and lessons learned into deliberations at both the national and the international levels.

National level actions determined whether commitments on poverty eradication and sustainable development were translated into results. Work with national Governments and their partners must remain at the centre of all efforts of the United Nations system. The operational tools and arrangements set up by the United Nations at the national level must be refined where necessary and used to promote joint, coherent planning and priority-setting, which in turn must be brought to bear on poverty eradication and sustainable development within a unified development framework.

The United Nations system must also support efforts to monitor, review and report on action taken and gains made. It needed to assist in identifying key challenges and implementation gaps and feed the findings into follow-up mechanisms.

Ms. Clark (Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) said that the post-2015 development agenda would need to be clear, simple, measurable and easily communicated if it was to get traction and make a real difference to the lives of people around the world. As the Millennium Declaration had put it, it was only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon the world's common humanity in all its diversity, that globalization could be made fully inclusive and equitable. On the evidence of the past 13 years the world had not done particularly well with respect to equity and equality. Both poverty and inequality now needed to be directly confronted and tackled in all their dimensions. GDP growth alone was not enough – the growth needed to be shared and inclusive. Around the world inequality was creating frustration, bitterness and ultimately instability, and around 1 billion people would still be living in extreme poverty in 2015. That was not sustainable, and not compatible with the vision of the Millennium Declaration.

She called on Member States to listen to the voices of the world's people. The United Nations could set the tone for a more participatory and multilateral system to tackle the biggest problems of our time. Already the United Nations had facilitated a global conversation involving around three quarters of a million people, not only on Internet but also in numerous national and thematic consultations, and broad agreement was emerging to the effect that priority needed to be given to tackling inequality because of its impact on individual and national economic and social potential and because it exacerbated social instability and fragility. Many people around the world shared those priorities and increasingly expected to be heard and engaged in matters that affected them. Some had advocated a “zero” goals approach, along the lines of the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. De Donnea (Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)) said that the best way to overcome inequality and inequitable growth was to have democratic systems in place that genuinely gave the most vulnerable sectors of society a chance to vote and compel their elected representatives to take account of their priorities.

Ms. Mohammed (Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning) said that the transition being made was from an agenda viewed through a single lens to one viewed through three lenses. The environment lens was the one that was required to make all the rest work. The universal agenda would look at global goals but ownership of the agenda would be critical to implementation at the country level. A data revolution such as that called for by the High-Level Panel would certainly reinforce the evidence base required to meet the challenges and the investment and capacity needs that lay ahead.

Mr. Maruping (Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union Commission) said that eagerness for the post-2015 development agenda should not distract from the continuing vigorous pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. One lesson learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals was that the preconditions had been either insufficient or non-existent.

African countries were very eager to provide input to the formulation of the post-2015 global development agenda. They preferred to contribute a common position, through the African Union. Consultations had been taking place between the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); that involvement would lead to ownership, commitment and, ultimately, implementation.

What was needed was strong, stable and sustained, but inclusive, economic growth that would create employment and reduce poverty. Agricultural development needed intensifying in order to ensure food security, proper nutrition and development of rural areas where people were still living in abject poverty. Industrialization needed to be accelerated to ensure economic diversification, trade in goods and services and reduced dependence on commodities. Infrastructure would be a central factor in improving intra-African trade potential. In addition, human development measures needed to target the most vulnerable and social groups, those at the bottom of the pyramid.

African leaders were fully aware that achieving such outcomes required an enabling environment at the national, regional and global levels, as well as maintenance of the physical environment.

Mr. Steven (Moderator) invited panellists to comment on Mr. Maruping's point that what was needed was economic transformation – growth that created jobs that would then change people's lives. How could the Economic and Social Council help create such economic transformation, not only in Africa but around the world?

Ms. Clark said that transformation was not just about high rates of GDP. It was about achieving growth and development in sectors where the poor lived and worked, which, in Africa, meant the rural areas. Putting investment back into the smallholder, the farmer and the infrastructure was critical. Her vision for rural sector development was for roads and transport that would boost smallholders' productivity and take the benefits of growth and development out to the last mile.

Mr. Wu Hongbo said that job creation was a major topic of discussion in the Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

The question of the acceleration of the eradication of poverty was the *raison d'être* of the forthcoming Special Event towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, at which Member States would be encouraged to redouble their efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals, and particularly goal 8.

On the question of ownership, he said that most members of the international community had not had ownership of the Millennium Development Goals because the goals had been prepared by experts who had not consulted the whole international

community. That would not be the case for the post-2015 agenda, on which all stakeholders — civil society, the private sector, and ordinary people — were able to give their opinions.

Mr. De Donnea said that, in the medium term, it was important to develop conditions that favoured private investment, security and political stability, and basic infrastructure. In the short term many jobs could be created in Africa by launching labour-intensive, rather than capital-intensive, projects such as road-maintenance programmes.

Ms. Mohammed said that it was important not to underestimate the governance required to build institutions and put the necessary resources in place.

Mr. Steven (Moderator) invited Mr. De Donnea to give his views on what role parliaments, as well as national and local governments, could play in the post-2015 agenda and what the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council, could do to help ensure their effectiveness in implementing the post-2015 agenda.

Mr. De Donnea said that, contrary to what many commentators said, the reason the Millennium Development Goals had not been fully achieved, or in some cases not achieved at all, was not lack of money but poor governance in developing countries and also in certain donor countries. For the post-2015 agenda much more emphasis was needed on democratic governance. The key to better governance was strong, effective, democratic parliaments. It was parliaments that passed the laws that helped a country to develop in an equitable fashion by incorporating social justice, respect for the environment and social objectives, and it was parliaments that set the budgets and would be able to hold Governments accountable for their performance in achieving the post-2015 goals.

Parliaments needed to be truly representative, with the poorest and minorities having access to the vote. In a true democracy parliaments would be equally dependent on the poorest members of the population because they also had a vote, and that would ensure they paid due attention to those groups. It was important for donors to invest in democratic systems and in strengthening the capacity of parliaments to monitor government expenditure. It was important in that regard to work also with regional parliaments, given that problems, and thus solutions to those problems, were increasingly regional in nature.

Good governance should be a goal in itself on the post-2015 agenda and not simply a cross-cutting theme, although it must naturally percolate through all the individual goals and sectors already mentioned by the other speakers. The Economic and Social Council should step up its consultations with representatives of parliaments, through the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), as indeed the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) had already started to do.

Ms. Clark said that, on the basis of the experience of UNDP, she fully endorsed the comments about the importance of supporting the world's parliaments, particularly in their role as guardians of integrity, seeking value for money, being vigilant against corruption and asking the questions that needed to be asked.

Mr. Wu Hongbo recalled that the standard for the sustainable development goals was that they should be simple, communicable and measurable. The criterion of measurability raised the question of what the standard for good governance might be: was it possible to apply the same standard to countries with differing social and economic systems? The principle of good governance could best be enshrined as an important element of the enabling environment for sustainable development goals.

Ms. Mohammed said that there had been a price to pay for the lack of government involvement in the crafting of the Millennium Development Goals. It was important to invest in institutions for, no matter how many laws were passed, unless a convention was translated into law and the law was enforceable and people had access to justice, nothing would happen.

Mr. Maruping said that a vital component of the governance structure was the financial sector and its institutions. Africa was currently most worried about illicit outflows of funds and it was important that tax structures and payments, clearing and settlement systems operated properly, with supervisory and regulatory frameworks that were up to standard and enforced, so that illicit outflows could be traced.

Mr. Steven (Moderator) invited Ms. Mohammed to give her views on the steps needed to ensure full and sustainable financing of the agenda.

Ms. Mohammed said that thus far the emphasis had been on poverty and the social dimension. While there had been some success with goal 8, it was important to hold partners to their commitments of official development assistance (ODA) in order to complete what remained unfinished business – some would say broken promises. Resources needed to be used more efficiently and innovatively and assets needed to be concentrated on the least developed countries and fragile economies.

The new agenda would be looking at an inclusive economic model and the environment and would therefore be on a much larger scale. The first step was to get a full understanding of the overall environment to be dealt with in order to see what investments would be needed. The enabling environment would have to be financed and business as usual would not provide the necessary resources. Political will would be needed to shift resources and greater accountability, better targeting and increased capacity would be required to put them to the best use.

The challenge lay in the fact that the development agenda was not legally binding, so much would depend on how compelling a case could be made. It was in the interests of Governments and partners to invest; they must see that it would provide dividends for everyone. Global partnerships would make it possible to create a compact of solidarity and boost the efforts needed to make that happen.

Huge resources would be mobilized by Governments for the major transformations in infrastructure. Instruments would need to be developed to access, and make imaginative use of, resources such as sovereign wealth funds and pension funds, ultimately creating jobs and livelihoods, and more opportunities for women.

The development sector would need to break out of its bubble to bring new partners into the universal agenda. Those partners would come largely from business and technology and it would be important to review their business models in order to put people, and indeed the planet, at the centre.

Good governance would be important in ensuring that people were not left on the outside looking in. The importance of financial accountability had been demonstrated by the crisis that had begun in 2008. Trade systems required rules that protected people and created a level playing field. Governance structures would coordinate resources and avoid duplication. The Council and its various bodies had a major role to play in supporting countries in implementing what promised to be a very difficult integrated agenda.

Mr. Steven (Moderator) said that it was in finance and partnership that the questions became real and that was an area of immense complexity. He invited panellists to comment.

Mr. De Donnea said that money was probably the most plentiful commodity in the world. What was lacking was political will, good ideas and good opportunities to channel it to the right objectives. It might be a good idea to set up a global fund to address development issues and climate change problems. There was no shortage of ideas for financing such a fund but in his personal view one original idea might be by means of a very small tax to be levied by the oil-producing countries on each barrel of oil. That idea was less ideologically loaded than a Tobin tax on financial transactions.

Mr. Maruping said that where commitments had been made they should be honoured; past experience had shown that that was not always the case. In addition, attention had to be paid to domestic resource mobilization in developing countries themselves. That involved improving tax structures and plugging the leaks of outflows to ensure that resources were retained. One source of financing was remittances, most of which already tended to be reinvested in housing and other development activities. Innovative measures such as public-private partnerships, though experimental, had yielded some success and best practices could be replicated.

Ms. Clark said that she agreed with Ms. Mohammed about the importance of global partnerships. In that context, ODA, although it accounted for only a small proportion of overall investment flows to development, was nevertheless useful, if used in a smart, catalytic way, in helping countries to build capacity and boost resource mobilization. Trends in domestic resource mobilization were encouraging, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS, but sometimes it was not possible to access liquidity because the systems were not in place or the environment was not favourable: skills, strategy and the ability to deliver were needed in order to realize sources of funding.

Mr. Wu Hongbo said that the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing would be responsible for financing strategy. On the question of partnership, the aim was not to form a single partnership but diverse yet complementary global partnerships. In terms of accountability in the context of ODA, for example, the private sector and civil society had to be sure that contributions they earmarked for sustainable development were used for that purpose. The question was, who would guarantee that? Parliamentary supervision and national audit agencies could ensure that new resources were used properly and wisely.

Mr. Steven (Moderator) invited the two discussants to comment on the contributions heard thus far.

Mr. Anderson (Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom for the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda) said that the Economic and Social Council was uniquely placed to integrate the various parts of the United Nations system, linking trade, intellectual property, remittances and the various policy dimensions. In addition, the process of agreeing a post-2015 framework was a fragile one. There was a risk that 2016 would arrive with no framework having been agreed. The Council could play a role in pushing to make sure that agreement was reached.

An agreement with hundreds of goals would be impossible to implement. The framework needed to be simple, clear, compelling and limited. It would have no binding power, so the task was to create goals and targets that could move people's hearts and minds and persuade them to act. The Council had a role in defining and focusing, helping the General Assembly to prioritize. Lastly, it could help in setting sights high so that disagreements did not lead to settling for the lowest common denominator rather than the highest ambition.

It was time that the rich countries put their own house in order by addressing illicit financial flows and money-laundering, promoting fair and transparent taxation systems and helping to recover stolen assets. Transactions of that kind needed to be subjected to more transparency and better governance. As to ODA, it was for many countries still the most critical component for achieving change, not least by catalysing and delivering private finance.

There was no longer any question that dimensions of governance could be measured. In the same way as basic health indicators such as maternal mortality were measured and indeed taken for granted, with good quality data it was possible to measure other key indicators such as violent deaths. It was time, as part of the data revolution, to measure

those things. There would be legitimate debate about how to measure, but there was no doubt that effective and reliable measurements could be made. The Council had a role to play there.

The Council also had a role to play in formulating the most effective approaches to inequality, particularly with regard to access to jobs. A more radical disaggregation of data was needed to identify more precisely how inequality was occurring and what it looked like, and then to devise practical steps to address it.

Ms. Aerts (Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development) said that, in terms of global partnerships, the private sector could play a critical role, not only by doing business in a responsible way and creating economic opportunities and jobs, but also through research and development in key areas such as poverty, and through strategic philanthropy. The advantages of the private sector were its flexibility and its access to a large pool of expertise and private capital.

Health and education, central as they had been to the Millennium Development Goals, would remain a priority in the post-2015 sustainable development goals. The challenges would be related to urban health, breaking the links between poverty and ill-health, and dealing with new challenges such as the increase in non-communicable diseases that further stretched already weak health services that could barely deal with infectious diseases. Indeed, those health services were themselves one of the challenges.

The transition to sustainable development goals would rely heavily on innovative technologies, an area that had not been prominent in the discussion thus far. Mobile communications, for example, were being extensively used to solve health problems. In establishing the sustainable development goals it was necessary to use all the means available and to bring a business mindset to solving public problems.

Mr. Steven (Moderator) invited the Co-Facilitator of the informal consultations on reform of the Economic and Social Council to describe the progress to date.

Ms. Frankinet (Co-Facilitator of the informal consultations on the further review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on strengthening the Economic and Social Council), said that negotiations on the reform of the Council, as mandated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), were still ongoing. She would describe the proposals put forward by the co-facilitators, based on a series of consultations with Member States and numerous bilateral meetings. The proposals represented the co-facilitators' understanding of the current state of deliberations.

The aim was to give the Council the means to implement its work programme, based on the sustainable development agenda, with the Council itself defining the content of that programme. The co-facilitators hoped to be able to preserve one of the Council's chief assets, namely its convening power, which gave it the ability to bring together the entire United Nations system in dialogue with international financial institutions, civil society and other partners.

The Council's agenda should be more concentrated, with the annual session focusing on a central theme that could rally the entire Economic and Social Council system, along with Member States and civil society.

The co-facilitators recommended a cycle in which the various segments took place over the year, leading up to the high-level segment. The cycle would start in July with the election of the new Bureau, which would then spend from August to January preparing the work programme. In February there would be a new segment replacing the current operational activities segment and bringing together the various contributions, notably from the funds and programmes. In April there would be a global dialogue with the international financial institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The humanitarian segment would be held between March and May and in May a new integration segment would consolidate the three dimensions – social, economic and environmental. Lastly, in July, the ministerial week would become the culmination, rather than the starting point of the Council's work.

Relatively routine tasks currently dealt with in the general segment would be distributed throughout the year in a series of smaller meetings. As to alternation between Geneva and New York, the thinking at the moment was to hold all Council sessions in New York with the exception of the humanitarian segment, which would remain in Geneva.

Interactive dialogue

Mr. Steven (Moderator) invited participants to contribute to the interactive dialogue.

Mr. Ghimire (Nepal) said that he welcomed the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

LDCs were the weakest and most vulnerable segment of the international community and had made least progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In view of their special situation, LDCs should receive priority attention in the post-2015 agenda.

Pervasive poverty meant that integration of the three pillars of sustainable development would be a formidable challenge. Overcoming that predicament required a clear demarcation of mutual responsibilities and accountability in the development framework, in order to ensure fulfilment of all global commitments on ODA, trade, technology transfer and capacity-building.

LDCs had a special identity in the United Nations system and should not be redefined purely in income terms. The spirit of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the Rio+20 outcome document must be maintained in defining the post-2015 development agenda. The voice and representation of LDCs must be upheld in all relevant international standard setting and decision-making bodies and processes and international support must be commensurate with their development needs and structural vulnerabilities.

Important global issues such as sustainable mountain development and the disproportionate impact of climate change in the mountains were not reflected in the report of the High-Level Panel. In addition, the report failed to outline predictable means and mechanisms to ensure accountability in the delivery of resources for implementation and follow-up. He was concerned that the report did not categorically recognize LDCs as the most vulnerable group of countries, requiring special attention in the spirit of Rio+20. To group all LDCs, land-locked least developed countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDs) under the same heading could lead to incorrect conclusions that failed to take account of their differences. He called on the Council to take the lead in correcting the report's shortcomings and anomalies.

The report rightly identified some non-conventional sources of additional funding, such as foundations and philanthropic institutions. However, they should not have access to conventional sources earmarked for national systems, as that could create parallel flows of resources or insider lending.

Mr. Porter (Observer for the European Union) said the European Union remained committed to doing its utmost to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals in the run-up to 2015. The post-2015 process should reinforce the international community's commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development, ensuring sustainable prosperity and the well-being of all people within planetary boundaries. Economic, social

and environmental issues were too often considered separately, with different mandates, different financing, different monitoring and different accountability mechanisms and the new framework should ensure the integration of all three interrelated dimensions of sustainable development.

Ms. Loncar (Croatia), noting that it was important to avoid setting too many goals, asked the panel what criteria would be applied to determine whether a given issue should be considered a global goal in itself.

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) said certain principles should be followed in formulating the new agenda. Goals should be common but differentiated, taking account of national circumstances and stages of development and respecting different development models and choices. They should also be comprehensive and balanced. Sustainable development should be included in an appropriate way but should not replace the development agenda itself.

As to partnerships, South-South cooperation could not replace North-South cooperation, which should be strengthened. Developed countries should fulfil their commitments and continue to provide ODA.

The Economic and Social Council should continue promoting implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and actively facilitate provision of assistance to LDCs and African countries. It should also step up its input into the formulation of the post-2015 agenda and make that the focus of its work for some time to come. China would play an active part in that work and endeavour to promote common development while realizing its own development.

Ms. Aarnio (Observer for Finland) said that Finland aligned itself with the statement made by the observer for the European Union. Peace and security should be reflected as a full integral component of sustainable development, in addition to the other three dimensions.

Finland had high hopes for the work of the newly established Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and its contribution to the discussion on comprehensive and coherent development financing, and in particular on innovative sources of financing.

Mr. Hajnoczi (Austria) said that, at an international conference recently held in Vienna to mark the twentieth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights, experts had strongly emphasized the need for the post-2015 agenda to adopt a human rights-based approach, which meant, among other things, enforcing the accountability of duty bearers towards rights holders, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable, marginalized and excluded. The principles of non-discrimination, equality and equity needed to be taken into account. The question had not been properly addressed in the report of the High-level Panel. He asked panellists to comment on the place of human rights in the post-2015 agenda.

Mr. Zinsou (Benin) said that the term “low-income countries” used in the report of the High-level Panel was not part of United Nations terminology. United Nations categories should form the basis for the post-2015 agenda.

The Economic and Social Council should be a forum for weighing different countries’ concerns, ensuring that all their interests were taken into account through differentiated measures.

A particular source of vulnerability for LDCs, where savings levels were low and there was limited opportunity for internal investment, was their capacity to mobilize domestic resources and free up internal resources for the various actions to be taken. There was a need for a contribution from the international community.

Lastly, he said the approach to be adopted should be based on disaggregated data that made it possible to target the most vulnerable and attain the objective of eliminating poverty.

Ms. Soemarno (Indonesia) said that the new development agenda should incorporate a new mindset that would support profound structural transformation to overcome development challenges.

Ms. Iskakova (Kyrgyzstan) said that her country would like to propose a new partnership arrangement to complement other existing forms of partnership. The most extreme wealth in the world was to be found in transnational corporations (TNCs), the five most profitable of which were wealthier than some rich countries. TNCs had privileged access to financial markets and were able to manage worldwide networks of subsidiaries, influence consumers and dominate markets, as well as to speed up innovation through scientific and technological research.

Their wealth, power and influence must be brought closer to their responsibility for the common good and to that end she proposed a new arrangement whereby TNCs would help developing countries to achieve selected goals from the post-2015 agenda.

Developing countries would first put forward a project for the achievement of goals under the agenda. United Nations structures would help them to design the project and find a partnership, and would also monitor and assess the project. TNCs would help on a voluntary basis but project results would be visible and measurable and raise their prestige. Their assistance would go to countries where they had no business operations, so that there would be no connection with the pursuit of their own interests.

Mr. Fitschen (Observer for Germany) said that there appeared to be agreement that whatever was done now must refer to the three dimensions of sustainable development. A coherent and concise set of goals and targets was needed, with ideally every goal integrating all three dimensions. In addition, a new factor had been brought into the equation, namely respect for planetary boundaries. To ensure ownership and accountability, the goals should be made operational at the national level while taking account of national realities. The transition to sustainable development concerned everyone and therefore required efforts from everyone.

Ms. González Zambrano (Observer for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) asked the panellists if they believed that a single global framework for development could be achieved under the current system, with its lack of consistency, or if a more thoroughgoing reform of the Council, perhaps including reform of its statutes, would be needed.

Although Venezuela was not against the involvement of all interested parties, including civil society, social movements and parliaments, that did not mean that responsibility should shift from States. States alone were responsible for formulating their development strategies, in accordance with their national realities, and partnerships with other actors should always be established within the bounds of those national strategies.

Ms. Golberg (Canada) said that Ms. Clark had mentioned that three quarters of a million people had been engaged in the global consultations. She wondered how their expectations were to be managed, and how it would be possible to keep people engaged in a process that was ultimately about them, but which was about to shift to a Member State-driven exercise.

There had been a suggestion that the African Union was going to develop a common African position. That could be a challenge given the diversity of needs that existed in the continent. Many fragile States, for example, felt that their specific needs had not been

effectively addressed in the Millennium Development Goals process and she wondered how they would be taken into account in the formulation of the new agenda.

Mr. Viera (Ecuador) said that inequality went beyond economics and Ecuador believed that one contribution the Economic and Social Council could make to the post-2015 agenda would be the promotion of an education-based approach. Education was fundamental to the creation not only of societies without material poverty but also societies without spiritual poverty – without discrimination, racism or selfishness, societies that showed tolerance and respect rather than the evils that generated violence and destroyed families, communities and nature.

Mr. Pistelli (Observer for Italy) said that the relationship between development and migration had not been taken seriously enough in the discussion thus far. In addition, the discussion to date had been vague on how to reduce inequality. To what extent would inequality be reduced by inclusive growth per se? Did States need to better define the target of inequality reduction?

Italy placed strong emphasis on territorial partnerships between local governments as a powerful tool to encourage sustainable development. At the national level Italy had engaged in full sharing and consultation with non-State actors, NGOs and local government. He asked panellists what could be done to involve national parliaments more, as it was they that would need to formulate the clear, simple narrative needed to legitimize the new agenda.

Mr. Steven (Moderator) invited the panellists to reply to participants' questions and comments.

Ms. Mohammed said that it was, as Mr. Anderson had said, difficult to keep the ambition alive over a long period. In an intergovernmental process, which could be difficult to engage with, it was important to keep the space open for voices from the country and regional levels. Involvement at the country level — and particularly involvement of young people — was vital because whatever was created would go back there for implementation over the next 15 years. The Member States would need to provide a road map at the forthcoming Special Event. The next step was to debate the hard questions and make choices in order to obtain one agenda and one set of goals around sustainable development and the eradication of poverty by 2030. It was important to reinforce the human rights agenda, particularly in the LDCs and Africa.

Mr. De Donnea said that, in terms of good governance, as Mr. Anderson and Mr. Maruping had pointed out, it was extremely important for developed countries to get their house in order by ensuring the prevention of illicit outflows of capital from African countries and respect for the anti-corruption laws in place in most developed countries. It was shocking to see companies quoted on the stock exchange and major financial centres still using corrupt means to obtain access to markets and flout environmental and social legislation.

Mr. Maruping said that the new agenda would not divert attention from the various programmes of action and strategies for LDCs, landlocked countries and small island economies. They would continue within the framework of the agenda. Parliaments must be consulted and have an opportunity to give their views; they had the pulse of their constituencies and their views were very important.

Ms. Clark said that, as Mr. Anderson had said, the agenda must not be so universal that it lost its focus on the poorest. Eradication of multidimensional poverty remained a huge issue in the LDCs and it was important not to give up on the Millennium Development Goals.

The question raised by the representative of Canada was very important. When people were asked their opinion they expected to be listened to, but how could their expectations be managed? The United Nations was faithfully writing up the reports on the consultations, but the responsibility would now go back to the Member States participating in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, due to report in September 2014, to the Member States negotiating the outcome for the 2015 agenda and to the Governments of the countries where national consultations had been held.

Taking up the point made by the observer for Italy on the territorial approach, she said that the world's local governments were absolutely critical to achieving any development goals.

Mr. Wu Hongbo said that universality was a real challenge for States, but the idea was that within a given goal there would be a range of targets and countries would be able to choose the target most suited to their level of development and therefore most applicable.

Population and migration were a very important subject and had not been forgotten. Migration was somewhat sensitive because national Governments sometimes believed it was an issue that involved their own sovereignty. The General Assembly would be holding a high-level dialogue on migration and development in October, at which Member States could make proposals that would feed into the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.