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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 19th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 23 October 2013, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Dhanapala (Vice-Chair) ..... (Sri Lanka)

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*In the absence of Mr. Diallo (Senegal), Mr. Dhanapala (Sri Lanka), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Agenda item 21: Globalization and interdependence**  
(continued)

- (a) **Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence** (A/68/259)
- (b) **Science and technology** (A/68/227)
- (c) **Development cooperation with middle-income countries** (A/68/265)
- (d) **Culture and development** (A/68/266)

1. **Mr. Ruiz** (Colombia) said that the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities continued to be the greatest global challenge and a necessary condition for sustainable development, in particular for middle-income countries, which comprised almost 70 per cent of the world's poor and exhibited growing levels of inequality. Although middle-income countries had achieved some important progress during recent years, that had not translated into greater development and well-being for their residents. The vast majority of middle-income countries had become trapped, losing their competitiveness compared with low-income countries, while still lacking the technology necessary to compete with high-income countries.

2. The metric of per capita income used to classify countries was insufficient to describe the development limitations that middle-income countries faced and a broader, multifaceted approach was needed.

3. Development involved not only improving standards of living, but also achieving inclusive and sustainable growth to end endemic backwardness and overcome structural divisions. International cooperation must not only eradicate high levels of poverty, but also effectively confront the structural problems which middle-income countries faced in terms of development.

4. **Ms. Perceval** (Argentina) agreed that per capita income did not always reflect the particularities of individual countries and consequently overlooked important aspects of human and social development. A revised definition of poverty must abandon the current hegemonic and thoroughly economic paradigm and reflect other dimensions than just income. The

distorting effects of distributive inequalities were particularly evident in Latin America. The international community must avoid relying on social handouts, a dangerous mix of humanitarian aid and security agendas and political use of aid under the guise of development financing.

5. **Mr. Eshanta** (Libya) said that the international community should help to integrate developing countries into the world economy in a sustainable manner. Effective global partnerships for technology transfer were needed in order to address the persistent gap between developed and least developed countries. Developing countries needed renewable energy and environmentally friendly technology, particularly for agriculture. The United Nations should continue to foster policy integration in those areas. Developing countries should seek to garner resources and put in place institutional frameworks to maximize the impact of technology. The role of culture in promoting sustainable development had been overlooked in the Millennium Declaration and should be reflected in the post-2015 development goals.

6. **Mr. Morozov** (Russian Federation) said that the use of natural resources to promote development must respect the environment and fight inequality. Knowledge should be maximized to eliminate disparities and liberate the potential of human resources. Improved science and technology cooperation must be one of the main elements of the post-2015 development agenda.

7. His country was working to modernize and diversify its national economy, with particular emphasis on technological innovation and the protection of intellectual property. It sought to increase work productivity, improve basic infrastructure and stimulate innovation.

8. **Mr. dos Santos** (Brazil) said that, although production patterns had effectively transformed the entire planet into one global marketplace, that phenomenon had not benefited every nation in the same way. By themselves, market forces could not provide solutions to the challenges of growing social and economic inequality. The current institutional architecture of global governance must address the shortcomings of globalization while taking advantage of its unprecedented opportunities and dynamism, in part by granting developing countries a greater voice and strengthening the collective efforts of the international community. Increased access to the benefits of science

and technology was one of the most important ways of promoting sustainable development and extending the advantages of globalization to all.

9. As middle-income countries were well placed to bridge the gap between industrialized economies and developing countries, it was important to enlist their cooperation in poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Finally, the importance of culture in promoting development could not be underestimated and cultural diversity should thus be preserved, also bearing in mind its linkage with biological diversity and the contribution of indigenous traditional knowledge to sustainable development.

10. **Mr. Nyembe** (South Africa) said that science and technology should be mainstreamed into the existing United Nations development agenda so that countries could exploit the opportunities afforded by globalization and better address sustainable development issues. His country was committed to promoting the principles underpinning South-South cooperation, including sharing best practices on science, technology and innovation policies, transferring technology and knowledge and establishing regional innovation ecosystems.

11. It was unfortunate that intellectual property rights frequently excluded the world's poor from benefiting from scientific and technological innovation, despite the fact that they were the very people who needed such access the most. The United Nations should promote an enabling international environment where intellectual property did not constitute a barrier to the equitable distribution of innovation and technology transfer.

12. South Africa had ratified the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance and believed that creative and cultural industries contributed to nation building, social cohesion, national healing and local economic development. The creative economy had the potential to generate employment and export earnings, often outside the formal economy.

13. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco), referring to agenda item 21 (d), said that it was important to recognize cultural diversity as a driver of sustainable and inclusive development. Respect for local heritage, culture and environment was at the heart of sustainability and ownership of the development process. Globalization had revolutionized how people connected and

simultaneously fostered and challenged cultural diversity and dialogue. Technological innovations should be harnessed to foster mutual dialogue and respect between cultures. Morocco had co-sponsored General Assembly resolutions [65/173](#) and [67/223](#) on the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection to encourage local communities and tourists alike to preserve and respect the country's natural and cultural heritage, as well as respect and promote indigenous cultures.

14. **Mr. Chipaziwa** (Zimbabwe) said that, although globalization was contributing to wealth creation, its benefits were not shared equitably within or among countries and the majority of people worldwide continued to be marginalized. As no economy, however powerful, could operate in isolation, the United Nations must be the centre for coordinating and harmonizing the actions of its Member States to solve economic, social, cultural and humanitarian challenges. An inclusive and equitable agenda which embraced democratic principle must be developed and the Doha Round must be concluded.

15. Zimbabwe would have a higher growth rate if it received a fair price for its commodities. In addition, operationalization of the Aid for Trade initiative would assist developing countries in addressing supply side constraints and building capacity, while increased foreign direct investment would augment exports and development resources. However, unilateral economic sanctions must not be used to punish weak states outside international law.

16. The existing technological gap must be bridged by technology transfer. The current intellectual property rights regime must be reviewed to ensure developing countries' access to knowledge and technology, including lifesaving medicines at affordable prices, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge. Africa's brain drain must be addressed via increased coordinated international support and improved infrastructure. Despite being one of the fastest growing sectors, culture remained an untapped development resource in many countries and could contribute to the creation of vibrant economies by leveraging significant tax revenues, providing well-paid jobs and creating sustainable enterprises.

17. **Mr. Momita** (Japan) said that the United Nations played a crucial role in establishing connections between globalization, poverty eradication and

sustainable development through multilateral coordination. Japan was committed to further developing and sharing its knowledge and technologies with international partners, including middle-income countries in particular. Various bilateral Japanese assistance schemes, such as technical assistance, grant aid and yen loans, supported middle-income countries.

18. **Mr. Gave** (France) congratulated Peru on having recently formed the Group of Friends of Culture and Development in coordination with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). France had always placed culture at the heart of development and poverty eradication, as it represented the sum of a people's knowledge and the source of its creativity and energy. Culture encouraged social cohesion and lasting peace by facilitating intercultural dialogue, preventing conflicts and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups. Culture also helped to establish the rule of law by strengthening freedom of expression, a free press and other democratic values. Thirdly, culture supported the construction of sustainable cities by promoting the inherent link between the environment and the preservation of cultural diversity. Finally, culture had vast potential for economic growth, especially for developing countries, women and youth. His country would thus highlight culture as one of the key pillars of its cooperation policies.

19. **Mr. Tupouniua** (Tonga) said it was difficult for Tonga, and for small island developing States in general, to foster sustainable industrialization and create economies of the scale required to reap the full benefits of globalization. Interdependence — a symbiotic relationship of States for mutual benefit — should be encouraged to address that issue. The world must not passively watch and accept globalization, but shape it to reflect specific principles and needs. While Tonga considered free trade an important part of development, the challenge of healthy nutrition in Tonga made it necessary to carefully consider the effects of free trade on unlimited imports of foods with detrimental health effects.

20. Climate change remained the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific. It must be included as a cross-cutting issue among the sustainable development goals and oceans should become a thematic priority in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. With regard to sustainable energy, establishing a Pacific

Regional Data Repository for Sustainable Energy for All was a step in the right direction.

21. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) said that development efforts attuned to cultural context allowed a better link between goals and processes, while facilitating greater adaptation to local values, conditions, resources and skills, enhancing sustainability, promoting intercultural dialogue and respecting cultural diversity. Culture also encouraged national and local ownership of development policies.

22. Cultural education and Francophone heritage were highly important elements of Benin's school programmes and allowed many different ethnic populations to meet and learn from each other. The growing importance of the culture industry in the context of globalization was recognized, as were the increased possibilities for expression and dissemination provided by new information and communication technologies. Conditions must be established so that all countries could fully benefit from new technological assets and thus bridge the digital divide.

23. **Mr. Fardan** (Bahrain) said that the high-level thematic debate on culture and development held on 12 June 2013 by the General Assembly, in cooperation with UNESCO, had underscored the ways in which culture could be harnessed to promote development. The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference had further highlighted the value of cultural diversity. His Government had worked to promote diversity, tolerance and openness to all world cultures. Manama had been chosen as Capital of Arab Culture in 2012 and Capital of Arab Tourism in 2013. The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage had been established in the city in 2013, in cooperation with UNESCO, with a view to strengthening implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention. His Government believed that specific measures should be taken to mainstream culture into all cultural policies and programmes.

24. **Mr. Messone** (Gabon) said that unfettered globalization which neglected interdependence would culminate in multifaceted crises, of which poor and developing countries would be the primary victims. Global governance reform was needed to give globalization a more human face, and national interdependence should inspire more solidarity, equitability and the sharing of common, albeit differentiated, responsibilities.

25. The classification of middle-income countries, which applied to Gabon, masked the fact that many of those countries faced the same problems as least developed countries in terms of poverty eradication, inequitable growth, uneven access to basic services, environmental degradation and infrastructure deficiencies.

26. The question of unequal access to information and communication technologies must not be left for the market to decide. Science and technology must be among the priorities of the post-2015 Development Agenda. In addition, the potential of culture for job creation should be recognized, in particular in the tourism sector and with relation to development.

27. **Mr. Weisleder** (Costa Rica) urged the international community to focus on sustainable development goals, poverty eradication, climate change and the vulnerable populations of all countries, including middle-income countries. An open and transparent strategic framework must be elaborated to define the principles and modalities of cooperation with middle-income countries. The strategy must also contain an inter-agency action plan to address the specific issues of middle-income countries.

28. Costa Rica believed that the improvement of living standards must follow inclusive, sustainable development processes, which guaranteed a reduction in inequality and accounted for changes in the traditional modes of production and consumption, but which simultaneously stimulated innovation, competition and economic diversification.

29. **Ms. Kangmin** (Singapore) described how Singapore, a small island State with no natural resources but its people, had needed to take a pragmatic approach towards development and focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics to build a knowledge society. Technology was recognized as a powerful education multiplier and must be integrated into the foundations of society to ensure lifelong learning and opportunities. Science and technology were not just vehicles for economic growth, but also drivers for inclusive, culturally responsive sustainable development and poverty eradication. In the spirit of global partnership, Singapore remained committed to sharing its development experiences with other nations, as illustrated by the Singapore Cooperation Programme.

30. **Ms. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) said that, in view of their demographic and economic weight, middle-income countries were a prominent driver of measures to protect the environment, food and water security and international trade. On 23 May 2013, her country had hosted the preparatory meeting for the High-level Conference of Middle-Income Countries held in San José, Costa Rica, from 12 to 14 June 2013, in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The meeting had explored the perspective of middle-income Arab countries in crafting the post-2015 development agenda.

31. The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference had drawn attention to the role of science and technology in enhancing productivity and development. Her country was host to the Technology Centre of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which sought to develop, transfer and promote technology in the region, in addition to defining the legal and commercial framework for its application. Her delegation emphasized the need to promote North-South partnerships for development in order to bring cultures together and ensure the integration of all societies in the global economy.

32. **Mr. Mohammad Pour Ferami** (Islamic Republic of Iran) emphasized the unique role of the United Nations in supporting national development efforts. The principles of the Millennium Declaration, including solidarity, non-interference, common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities, the right to development and greater distributive justice, remained highly relevant to the management of globalization. Longer-term strategic repositioning of the United Nations development system was needed. The global dialogue on globalization and interdependence should be held in a global forum where all voices could be heard.

33. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that, although globalization had resulted in an unprecedented degree of interconnectedness, access and opportunities across borders, as well as the more rapid dissemination of technology and the increased movement of people and capital, it had also exacerbated inequalities, in particular through the uneven spread of technology and increasing vulnerability to exogenous economic shocks. Addressing the development needs of middle-income countries had been particularly challenging, because using per capita income to measure development obscured the persistent, distinct and varied challenges faced by these countries. Consideration should also be given to income

distribution, poverty levels, capacity deficits and structural challenges faced by middle-income countries in areas such as productivity, innovation, infrastructure, savings, investment, education, gender and protection of the environment.

34. While culture could not and should not be invoked as an excuse to infringe on human rights and fundamental freedoms, cultural diversity would naturally result in different paths to development. The cultural and creative industries had been undervalued in terms of their contribution to economic development, in particular via tourism, sports and entertainment.

35. **Mr. Gaumakwe** (Botswana) agreed that the broad classification of middle-income countries masked pockets of poverty and serious gaps in overall progress towards achievement of the MDGs. Challenges associated with poverty, access to health, safe drinking water and sanitation, undernourishment, high unemployment rates and a lack of quality education still persisted in middle-income countries. An inter-agency plan would thus be the best approach to respond to those countries' needs and address the issues of technology transfer, financial assistance and productive capacity-building in order to increase their competitiveness, their role and their contribution to the global economy.

36. **Ms. Dali** (Tunisia) said that today's world was paradoxical: never had humanity accumulated such wealth, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and yet never had such a large portion of humanity lived marginalized and deprived of the world's riches. The continuing existence of poverty was a shocking phenomenon, both morally and socioeconomically. It exacerbated political and social tensions and threatened global public health as well as the environment. The international community should thus focus on poverty and unemployment while relying on the principle of interdependence.

37. His country had effected a number of reforms encouraging job creation, as well as boosting investment, regional development, and social and financial assistance for the most vulnerable classes. Although Tunisia's democratic transition had not been easy so far, history had shown that such transitions were often accompanied by economic and social challenges, but that cooperation and solidarity with global partners were important for building a democracy, as well as ensuring full employment and decent work for all.

*The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.*