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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 13th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 12 October 2017, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Jürgenson ..... (Estonia)

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

**Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues** (*continued*)

**(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)** (*continued*) (A/72/283)

**(b) Women in development** (*continued*) (A/72/282)

**(c) Human resources development** (*continued*) (A/72/292)

1. **Mr. Rahmanto** (Indonesia) said that, despite the progress achieved, the rate of poverty eradication remained uneven and some 1.6 billion people still lived in multidimensional poverty. If that trend continued, poverty eradication would continue to be the greatest global challenge. It was therefore imperative to maintain momentum in implementing poverty eradication strategies, including through the proclamation of a third United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty.

2. The multidimensional nature of poverty called for measures beyond economic growth, such as increasing opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and improving the quality of human resources. To that end, Indonesia had expanded the provision of basic services and social protection coverage. Its national health insurance programme was one of the most ambitious of its kind in the world, covering 66.4 per cent of the population. It had also allocated more resources for revitalization of the marine sector and infrastructure development, particularly for frontier and underdeveloped areas, and remote islands. As a result of those efforts, the number of Indonesians living below the poverty line had fallen from 17.75 per cent in 2006 to 10.86 per cent in 2016.

3. Partnerships, gender equality, adequate financing data and reliable information were some of the key elements of an enabling environment conducive to poverty alleviation and the implementation of poverty eradication strategies. The United Nations could play a significant role in helping Member States to translate global commitments on poverty eradication into concrete actions, in collaboration with the country concerned and based on its actual needs and requirements. The United Nations should also continue coordinating support through the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication.

4. **Ms. Ochir** (Mongolia) said that, although significant strides had been made by the international community in reducing poverty through concerted efforts within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the United Nations Decades for the Eradication of Poverty, progress had

been uneven across regions and countries. It was unacceptable that 10.7 per cent of the world's population remained trapped in extreme poverty. Given the multifaceted nature of poverty, a multidimensional, integrated response was required to ensure that efforts to combat poverty were sustainable. In that regard, she noted with interest the experience of countries that had used the Multidimensional Poverty Index methodology to track and accelerate progress on poverty eradication and fine-tune evidence-based policy interventions.

5. Despite the gains achieved through the sustained implementation of the MDGs, one in five persons in Mongolia still lived below the poverty line. The national Sustainable Development Vision 2030 envisaged ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions, creating job opportunities, and reducing inequalities. Effective poverty reduction policies included the creation of employment opportunities; access to social services, social safety nets finances, technology and other productive resources; and an enabling environment ensuring equality, equity and the rule of law. Her Government had taken a number of steps in those areas; high priority was attached to improving access to all levels of education consistent with the demands of the labour market, and social protection schemes had been expanded to protect vulnerable population groups, including single parents, mothers with children under 3, students, older persons and persons with disabilities. It had launched various employment promotion programmes for youth, herdsman, older persons and persons with disabilities and programmes to empower women, provide training in market-required skills and support start-up businesses, particularly in remote and rural areas. Efforts were also being made to promote the rule of law and human rights, and to ensure equitable distribution of the country's mineral wealth. Her Government intended to redouble its efforts concerning the provision of health services to protect the gains achieved under the MDGs, and would make sustained efforts to diversify the economy following a sharp decline in economic growth between 2014 and 2016.

6. **Ms. Naowanondha** (Thailand) said that the eradication of poverty in all its dimensions was the overarching goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Although the reduction in poverty around the world over the past two decades was to be commended, progress had been uneven between countries and regions, and more needed to be done. The momentum generated from the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) must be maintained.

7. Thailand recognized the multidimensional nature of poverty, and was tackling inequality as an integral

part of its poverty eradication strategies. It was investing in the social dimension and in opportunities for employment and decent income for all in order to eradicate poverty and ensure sustained and inclusive development. Her Government had taken a number of steps in that regard, such as implementing social protection measures to assist vulnerable people in need, investing in the transport and communication infrastructure to close the physical and digital divide between cities and rural areas, and providing more employment opportunities for people in rural areas. The standard minimum wage had recently been increased and continued efforts were being made to advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Children in Thailand, including various groups of migrants, were entitled to 15 years of free education, and the universal health coverage scheme now covered over 99 per cent of the population.

8. Inequality between countries remained a pressing problem and should be addressed through revitalized global partnerships and strengthened international cooperation. Thailand had been providing capacity development and technical assistance to various countries, including its neighbours and countries in Africa, and looked forward to enhancing its contribution in that regard. In conclusion, she reiterated her country's support for the poverty eradication efforts of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other United Nations agencies.

9. **Mr. Simpara** (Mali) said that, in response to the serious crisis that had been affecting Mali since 2012, his Government was taking a number of steps to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. It was implementing a Strategy for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development, which covered the period 2016–2018 and focused on five main areas: reinforcing peace and security; stabilizing the macroeconomic framework; promoting accelerated, sustainable and pro-poor growth that would generate employment; ensuring equitable access to basic services; and promoting institutional development and good governance. The overall objective of the Strategy was to promote inclusive and sustainable development, and reduce poverty and inequality in a country that was united and at peace. A programme providing for targeted cash transfers to households suffering food insecurity was also being implemented with the support of the World Bank; it was hoped that some 90,000 households would be reached by the end of 2019. In addition, the Government was

implementing an ambitious presidential programme for the period 2017–2020 aimed at reducing significantly inequalities in access to basic social services.

10. In order to resolve the multidimensional crisis that had beset the country since 2012, his Government was deeply committed to the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, which, alongside political and security aspects, prioritized national development, with a special focus on the northern area. With the support of technical and financial partners, the Government was implementing rapid impact development programmes in the most vulnerable parts of the country and creating revenue-generating activities for populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons. Implementation of its poverty eradication strategy had increased the accessibility of safe drinking water in both rural and urban areas.

11. His Government was convinced that gender equality was essential to poverty eradication. Following the implementation of the 2015 law on gender promotion, the percentage of elected women councillors had risen to 27.5 in 2016.

12. Noting that considerable resources were required for his country's development efforts, he urged partners to honour the commitments they had made at the Brussels and Paris donor conferences held in 2013 and 2015, respectively.

13. **Mr. Tobgay** (Bhutan) said that progress in eradicating poverty during the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty had been encouraging, but uneven. Despite a reduction in the poverty rate in South Asia from 29.4 per cent in 2008 to 15.1 per cent in 2013, the region continued to host the second largest concentration of people living in extreme poverty, and levels of extreme poverty in the least developed countries remained high. The international community must redouble its efforts to meet the challenge of eradicating poverty during the next decade.

14. In pursuing development, Bhutan had sought to balance economic growth with social development, environmental sustainability and cultural preservation within a framework of good governance. Thanks to the support and assistance of development partners, good progress was being made in achieving the overarching goal of poverty eradication as Bhutan prepared for graduation from the least developed country category, with multidimensional poverty having already fallen by half. However, segments of the population remained vulnerable to falling back into poverty, and a range of policies and economic measures were required to sustain the country's significant achievements in

poverty reduction and sustainable development over the longer term. A robust, global partnership utilizing all the financing mechanisms set out in Sustainable Development Goal 17 was essential if Bhutan, as a landlocked and least developed country, was to enhance its productive capacities to achieve the twin goals of poverty eradication and sustainable development. To that end, it would need to diversify its economy; develop quality infrastructure; promote small and medium-sized enterprises, youth employment and skills development; and integrate women into the development process.

15. **Ms. Ahlawat** (India) said that, despite the substantial progress made, large-scale, chronic poverty remained the greatest challenge for humanity, and disparities within and among nations continued to grow. In an interdependent world, long-term peace and prosperity could only be achieved through collective efforts. Sustainable Development Goal 17 encapsulated a collective responsibility to achieve sustainable development.

16. Noting the multiple, often interlinked causes of poverty at both the individual and national level, she said that the global significance of India's successes in lifting people out of poverty was well recognized. Her country had worked hard to alleviate poverty through policies designed for the welfare of its people. Early gains included self-sufficiency in food production, improved access to education, affordable health care, a diversified economy and social reform including positive discrimination. The focus was now on rapid and inclusive economic growth and empowerment of people. Significant progress was being made in achieving financial inclusion, particularly for the poor, marginalized and vulnerable, using digital technology to provide banking services and loans to small entrepreneurs. Particular attention was being paid to empowering women, including through the provision of education for the girl child and online marketing platforms for women entrepreneurs, and to improving agricultural productivity and sustainable farming practices through the use of technology, including remote sensing to provide information on crop inventory, water availability, and early warning of natural disasters.

17. **Mr. Fox-Drummond Gough** (Brazil) said that the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 1 on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere depended directly on the implementation of all of the Goals in an integrated and indivisible manner. With the adoption of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, efforts should now be focused on putting that universal road map to use for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by all countries. He

commended the high-level political forum on sustainable development on its 2017 theme, "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world". Brazil had presented a voluntary national review in the high-level political forum during the summer.

18. Experience had shown the importance of integrating all relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process and in the action to be taken to address the multidimensional aspects of poverty. A human rights-based approach that valued the empowerment of women and girls, decent jobs and access to food and basic services was required to break the cycle of poverty. In the context of poverty eradication efforts in Brazil, women had played a central role as the main focus of conditional cash transfer and housing credit programmes. Action to address inequality was essential to the success of any poverty eradication policy.

19. Although important contributions had been made in addressing the root causes of poverty during the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, much remained to be done. Brazil would therefore support the establishment of a third United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty, beginning in 2018, to maintain the momentum in the fight against poverty.

20. **Ms. Bakuramutsa** (Rwanda) said that eradicating poverty in all its forms remained the greatest global challenge and a requisite for sustainable development. To strengthen countries' capacity to achieve that goal, it was imperative to establish a third United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty (2018–2028) informed by the data collected through an evaluation of the Second Decade.

21. Rwanda had succeeded in reducing the poverty rate to 39.1 per cent between 2011 and 2014 through the implementation of its Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy. One of the Strategy's priorities was to reduce poverty to below 30 per cent by 2020 through the strengthening of social safety nets and people-centred economic and social policies that promoted growth and investment in education, skills development, job creation and health care. Her country recognized the importance of inclusive development for achieving the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It deliberately positioned women, who accounted for over half of the population, and young people who made up over 70 per cent of those of working age, at the centre of its development priorities, in the knowledge that inclusive human resources development would promote lasting sustainable development in developing countries.

22. The support of the United Nations system and other international partners in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of poverty eradication policies and programmes was essential. Proper investment in the 2030 Agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 5 on achieving gender equality, would facilitate global poverty eradication.

23. **Mr. Mahmaminov** (Tajikistan) said that the international community was on the right track to achieve the ambitious task set out in the 2030 Agenda of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and noted that the global poverty rate had been halved since the year 2000. As a result of the efforts to attain the MDGs and the implementation of various development and poverty reduction strategies, the poverty rate in Tajikistan had fallen from 83 per cent in 2000 to 33 per cent in 2016. His Government continued to attach high priority to poverty eradication; the new National Development Strategy 2016–2030 and midterm development programme 2016–2020, which were aligned with the 2030 Agenda, aimed to bring the poverty rate down to 20 per cent by 2020.

24. Continued, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, investment in health and education, improved social protection systems and efforts to build resilience were required to eradicate extreme poverty around the world. The further development of international trade and foreign direct investment to address such issues as food and energy security, water resources and climate change would serve to improve the well-being of the population and contribute to poverty eradication.

25. **Mr. Jackson** (Nigeria) said that it was no coincidence that the issues of poverty eradication and women in development had been discussed on the International Day of the Girl Child, and trusted that the international community would take action to ensure that every young woman was able to realize her potential.

26. In order to maintain the momentum generated by the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, it would be advisable to evaluate the extent to which poverty had been reduced globally. Noting the nexus between poverty and insecurity, particularly in the light of growing extremism, he said that poverty remained a major threat to the human race, and must be tackled at the domestic and global levels in line with Sustainable Development Goal 1.

27. His Government continued to attach high priority to poverty eradication, and was launching a number of targeted interventions aimed at addressing extreme poverty, and at combating illiteracy, hunger and disease. It was also implementing several initiatives to bridge the

gender gap in unemployment, address youth unemployment and promote human resource development, including the N-Power programme that would offer 500,000 young people in Nigeria the opportunity to acquire skills.

28. The Government remained committed to addressing insecurity and violent extremism and to sustaining good governance, building strong institutions and forging regional and global alliances to combat extreme poverty. Diversification of the economy, including through non-oil exports, would continue to be prioritized as a means of promoting growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication, with particular attention to developing the agriculture and mining sectors and to attracting foreign direct investment in areas in which Nigeria had a comparative advantage. Various agricultural schemes had been initiated, and efforts were being made to ensure that agricultural advantages were further boosted through technology transfer, export promotion and rural development. Nigeria would continue to encourage other countries to grant market access opportunities for its products.

29. **Mr. Costa Chaves** (Timor-Leste) said that his Government's social and economic policies were focused on reducing poverty, consolidating security and stability, and providing a foundation for nationhood. The Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030 provided a framework for Timor-Leste to become a prosperous and strong upper middle-income country by 2030.

30. Since independence in 2002, the provision of good quality education and health care had become an important poverty reduction strategy for Timor-Leste. The net school enrolment rate had increased, infant mortality rates had declined, and antenatal care and immunization coverage had been expanded. The construction of infrastructure to support economic activities had generated real progress in upgrading the road network and developing the electricity sector, with coverage reaching 83 per cent of households in 2016. Access to clean water in many remote areas had improved and numerous health facilities had been built around the country. Various poverty reduction programmes primarily targeted at women had been successfully implemented. For example, through business training, and internal group savings and credit schemes, rural women had become more financially independent and food secure.

31. Such strategies had yielded a welcome decrease in the national poverty rate from 50 per cent in 2007 to 41 per cent in 2015. However, the rapid growth of the country's young population posed specific challenges to development. Efforts were therefore being made to

develop a stronger non-oil economy, and to increase the use of concessional borrowing to accelerate economic diversification.

32. Least developed countries, small island developing States, countries in or emerging from conflict situations, fragile States and Non-Self-Governing Territories required adequate and predictable financing to address their specific needs and challenges, and ensure that no one was left behind. More inclusive development facilitating access for women, young people and children to new technologies and innovations would be a great driver of poverty eradication.

33. **Mr. Abdulrahman** (Bahrain) said that his country attached great importance to the status of women and acknowledged the great contribution that women made to social, economic and political life. The 2002 Constitution of Bahrain set out principles for the integration of women in all aspects of development, and placed emphasis on gender equality. Women in the country had acquired many rights, setting a model to be followed. The status of women in Bahrain had been improved by harmonizing the efforts of the Government and citizens. The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013–2022) focused on family stability, equal opportunity, lifelong learning, quality of life and generating expertise in women's empowerment. The contribution of women to economic development had been enhanced through the provision of access to financial resources, consultation and training, and the establishment of gender equality committees. As a result of such efforts, the percentage of women in the workforce had risen from 4.9 per cent in 1971 to 33 per cent in 2014. Women were increasingly prominent in numerous businesses and professions. In March, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, Bahrain had announced the establishment of the Princess Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for the Empowerment of Women.

34. **Ms. Hamdouni** (Morocco) said that, although the rate of extreme poverty and the percentage of undernourished people had fallen significantly during the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, many countries, notably in sub-Saharan Africa, continued to suffer from poverty and inequalities, exacerbated by economic and political crises, loss of biodiversity and diminishing ecosystem services, and natural disasters. The eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions remained the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

35. The eradication of poverty had been a constant concern of public authorities in her country. In recent years, public budgets had provided for increased allocation of resources for social sectors, especially education, health care, and housing, with special provisions for supporting youth employment programmes. High priority was attached to improving the living conditions of rural populations, through the adoption of a policy focused on food self-sufficiency, developing joint family agricultural enterprises, and promoting income-generating activities, particularly for rural women.

36. Her country's strategic framework for poverty reduction was based on the establishment of a participatory approach putting citizens at the centre of public policy; the strengthening of the democratic process and establishment of a just and prosperous society; and the development of a robust and competitive economy generating sustainable and inclusive growth. A number of initiatives were being implemented to achieve those goals, notably the National Human Development Initiative that addressed social deprivation, the National Observatory of Human Development, which conducted studies on poverty, the Green Morocco Plan that sought to improve the living conditions of the rural poor, a medical insurance plan for the economically underprivileged (*Régime d'assistance médicale aux économiquement démunis*) and a national microfinancing strategy expected to generate or finance 2 million jobs by 2020.

37. Morocco had made South-South and triangular cooperation a priority in its foreign policy with a view to supporting African countries and achieving shared growth, poverty eradication and human development. Her country remained committed to fighting poverty and working towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Its regionalization initiative, reform at the regional and local levels, promotion of the rule of law and anti-corruption campaign should facilitate synergies among stakeholders to that end.

38. **Mr. Chigejo** (Zimbabwe) said that, despite the efforts made during the Second Decade, the world was a long way from eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind. Progress had been uneven and many countries in sub-Saharan Africa continued to grapple with poverty. There was a need to respect the right of developing countries to formulate their own poverty eradication strategies in line with their national priorities, and to foster coherent and integrated approaches to poverty eradication. Broad partnerships and synergies should be developed with respect to all dimensions of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and efforts should be made to engage the

private sector in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

39. His Government attached priority to supporting the productive sectors of the economy as a means of increasing domestic production, stimulating economic growth, creating jobs and reducing poverty. Those sectors principally agriculture, manufacturing, mining and tourism were benefiting from domestic and foreign direct investment and low interest rate loans.

40. His Government recognized the critical role of women in development, economic growth and wealth creation, and was committed to women's empowerment. Steps were being taken to facilitate the participation of women in the productive sectors of the economy. The allocation of land to women through the land reform programme had led to an increase in entrepreneurs among women and to an improvement in the quality of life of many women and their families. Support to women in the agricultural sector was being further extended through the provision of inputs, training and equipment. The establishment of the Women Empowerment Bank, scheduled to be operational by the end of 2017, was a further step in empowering women and would serve to integrate the majority of women into the formal financial system. All capacity-building and financial support for women's economic empowerment programmes in Zimbabwe would be appreciated.

41. **Ms. Ravirova-Borovik** (Russian Federation) said that her country noted with satisfaction the progress made since 2000 in eradicating poverty. However, despite the efforts made and the significant financial resources deployed, the problem persisted. Furthermore, the rapid development of technology had led to a new type of poverty, namely poverty among the working population. Around 10 per cent of the world's workers were living with their families on less than \$1.90 a day. Unable to subsist on such little income earned in the legal economy, they were forced to refuse permanent employment and look for semi-legal jobs, which, as a rule, provided less social protection and increased corruption. Given the differences in social and economic systems and the uneven results achieved by countries in attaining the MDGs, diverse solutions would have to be found to tackle the problem of the working poor. The experience of individual States and international organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), would be useful in that regard.

42. The Russian Federation was implementing a range of measures to ensure that workers received a fair wage. With the emergence of new "non-standard" types of employment, the growing mobility of certain segments of the labour market, and the changing nature of labour

relations, such measures were being implemented with the involvement of private businesses.

43. Her country was willing to share its experience in eliminating the causes of poverty among the working population. At the International High-level Conference on Decent Work, held in Moscow in 2012, a multilateral donor agreement had been signed on a training strategy for some countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Middle East and Asia, to which the Russian Federation had contributed \$8 million between 2012 and 2014. An agreement had also been signed between the Russian company Lukoil and ILO launching cooperation to attract private resources for ILO projects. The first meeting between the Ministers of Labour and Employment of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and the Director-General of ILO in 2016 had facilitated a dialogue on social and employment issues in those countries.

44. **Mr. Paudel** (Nepal) said that the fact that the 2030 Agenda had accorded the highest priority to poverty eradication attested to the gravity of the issue. The situation was particularly bleak in the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, where poor infrastructure and lack of access to resources hindered the development of productive capacities. The complex, multifaceted nature of poverty and social inequity constituted the biggest hurdle to sustainable development. A focused, concerted, integrated and holistic approach must be taken to address the socioeconomic, human and environmental dimensions of poverty and inequality.

45. Poverty reduction had been at the core of his country's development agenda for the past 25 years, and remarkable progress had been made. Extreme poverty had been halved over the past 15 years and the country was on track to reduce it to less than 5 per cent by 2030. Nepal had the ambition of graduating from least-developed status by 2022, although the earthquakes of 2015 would make it more difficult to achieve that goal.

46. National efforts alone were not sufficient and must be complemented by international support measures, which provided least developed countries and landlocked developing countries with enhanced, predictable and sustained financial and technical support. Countries like Nepal, which were emerging from conflict and disasters, were in need of such support.

47. Follow-up and review mechanisms, including for the 2030 Agenda, should be made more effective. A comprehensive matrix would be useful, particularly for the countries in greatest need, to review progress on all

the Goals and targets and identify interlinkages with a view to facilitating feedback and corrective measures where necessary.

48. **Mr. Maope** (Lesotho) said that eradicating poverty in all its forms was a key commitment in the 2030 Agenda. All nations had an obligation to prioritize full and productive employment and decent work for all. It was worrisome that the strong economic performance of Africa over the past two decades had not led to significant reductions in poverty levels and had failed to create decent jobs. The continent's rapid growth continued to focus on exports of primary resources without value addition, which had a negative impact on large numbers of the working poor.

49. In promoting industrial growth, countries should support small-and medium-sized enterprises and pursue specific policies to assist the working poor. Investment in farm and off-farm employment should be prioritized to improve food security and nutrition, and to boost rural incomes. Rural cooperatives and institutions should be engaged to contribute to poverty eradication efforts.

50. Although gender equality and empowerment were central to the 2030 Agenda, the progress made on many aspects of women's empowerment had not resulted in equal outcomes for women and men. In most cases, women continued to be denied equal pay for work of equal value and were less likely than men to receive a pension. As a result, they were the victims of income inequalities throughout their lives. In conclusion, he called on the United Nations system to continue its coordinating role in support of developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty.

51. **Monsignor Grysa** (Observer for the Holy See), quoting Pope Francis, said that a way had to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth. Poverty was one of the tragic outcomes of social, economic and political exclusion, fostered by conditions such as excessive inequality that concentrated the benefits from economic growth into the hands of the few, and fiscal austerity policies that unintentionally alienated the poor and disproportionately affected women. Exclusion also impoverished the entire community by blocking the valuable contributions that those excluded might have made.

52. The obvious antidote to exclusion was a concerted, strategic developmental focus on inclusion, in particular by investing in early child development, health and education, which were beneficial for development, educational attainment and productivity. The implementation and expansion of social protection policies, in both developed and developing countries, would promote pro-poor growth and help to alleviate

poverty. Inclusion programmes must focus on women and girls who were disproportionately among the poorest in society. If parity and equity in the labour force was to be achieved, women's informal work must be recognized. Economic inclusion was also crucial to combat human rights abuses, such as exploitation of female domestic and migrant workers and trafficking in persons.

53. Ending poverty was key to the attainment of all the other development goals. Accordingly, the United Nations should mainstream poverty eradication and social, political and economic inclusion into all aspects of its mission.

54. **Mr. Mohammed** (Sudan) said that, although significant progress had been made in eradicating poverty in Africa and the least developed countries, progress had been much slower in sub-Saharan Africa, and poverty remained one of the greatest challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. His Government was implementing a number of initiatives to eradicate poverty, including the five-year programme for economic reform 2015–2019, and the national poverty eradication plan. Specific national mechanisms had also been put in place, including a youth employment fund and a portfolio for the provision of microcredit. The Diwan al-Zakat national charity agency played a major role in supporting the most vulnerable groups, including widows and orphans. Particular attention was also being given to the empowerment of women, and 30 per cent of seats in the legislature and executive had been allocated to women.

55. The Sudan was facing a number of challenges in meeting the goals of the 2030 Agenda, including a high debt burden and inability to benefit from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, despite meeting the conditions of that Initiative. It was also being adversely affected by climate change and was emerging from conflict. His country was therefore in particular need of support and called on the international community to meet its official development assistance commitments.

56. **Ms. Muraki-Gottlieb** (Observer for the International Chamber of Commerce) referred to the Secretary-General's recommendation, that the private sector should support poverty eradication efforts by testing, developing and promoting the scaling-up of cost-effective and contextualized solutions suited to a country's national circumstances (A/72/283, para. 67(f)). Noting that open, international trade had already helped to lift more than one billion people out of poverty, she said that sustainable trade, which fostered economic growth, raised living standards and



safeguarded the environment, could provide a solution to poverty. Financial institutions could play a key role in providing trade finance that could help to integrate emerging economies into global trade flows, and close cooperation with development and commercial banks could mitigate risk and facilitate transactions in countries and markets previously difficult to access.

57. Creating opportunities through education and skills would make global trade more inclusive and sustainable. Capacity-building — which was particularly important for women, girls and disadvantaged populations — would help to adapt the workforce to a rapidly changing labour landscape and create markets for mutually beneficial sustainable trade. Rapid advancements in technology would have a profound impact on people's lives and could foster growth, job creation and opportunities for education, learning and innovation. The development of infrastructure accelerating access to the digital economy and of a transparent national regulatory framework underpinned by the rule of law would create an attractive environment for investment.

58. The private sector played an important role in mobilizing resources and providing expertise in capacity-building and investment for sustainable development. She called for genuine, durable and long-term partnerships as part of a sustained multi-stakeholder collaboration to eradicate poverty. In that connection, the International Chamber of Commerce looked forward to enhancing and facilitating private-sector partnerships with the United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, government groups, Governments, academia and civil society.

59. **Ms. Barth** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that full employment, decent work for all and effective social protection systems were required to break the cycle of poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. With some 780 million workers worldwide unable to lift themselves and their families out of poverty, poor job quality remained a pressing issue. Although almost a third of the poor in developing countries held a job, they were in low-skill occupations that were sometimes unpaid, and did not have social protection. Although more workers in developed countries had salaried employment, they still fell into poverty, and challenges were further exacerbated by large gender gaps. Expanding universal social protection was a key policy tool to help ensure that no one was left behind; the ILO recommendation concerning national floors of social protection provided guidance in that regard. The ILO recommendation concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy provided strategies and practical guidance to

countries on how to promote decent jobs in the formal economy.

60. Existing labour market policies should be further strengthened and refined. Employment policies must be integrated into comprehensive macroeconomic policy frameworks and tailored to the specific needs and priorities of a country. Action to diversify the production base, tackle precarious employment and invest in agriculture, rural non-farm economies and other sectors lagging behind would address many of the structural challenges that had hindered the expansion of decent jobs and poverty eradication efforts.

61. **Mr. Maseli** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that UNIDO analyses had shown that the progress made in eradicating poverty since 1990 had been uneven, partly as a result of the varied success of countries, particularly the least developed countries, in achieving structural transformation and industrialization. In regions that had successfully reduced poverty, such as East Asia and the Pacific, economic growth had been accompanied by increases in manufacturing employment and value added. In regions such as Africa that had failed to reduce poverty or had reduced it at slower rates, economic growth had been resource-driven and unaccompanied by structural transformation.

62. Industrialization served as a driver of structural transformation, and helped to make poverty eradication achievable by providing productive employment and decent jobs, in particular in the manufacturing sector. UNIDO had been providing countries with technical expertise on promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development, including through its Programme for Country Partnership, and the Accelerated Agriculture and Agro-industry Development Plus Initiative. It was also engaged in creating youth employment opportunities by supporting the creation and expansion of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in many countries.

63. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that, despite the significant progress made in poverty reduction over the previous 30 years, around 779 million people continued to live in extreme poverty, two thirds of them in rural areas. Ensuring inclusive growth in rural areas was therefore essential for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The FAO publication *State of Food and Agriculture in the World: 2017* outlined a strategy to promote inclusive rural transformation that would contribute not only to eradicating rural poverty, but also to eradicating hunger and malnutrition in urban areas.

64. Growing urban food demand would constitute a major force for inclusive rural transformation. Family farmers would require assistance to meet that demand, including through policy actions to facilitate access to agricultural inputs and markets; foster the adoption of environmentally sustainable approaches adapted to local needs; and strengthen rural advisory services, producer organizations and land tenure rights. Rural development planning and infrastructure development were also important elements to connect rural areas and urban markets and foster job creation, particularly for women and young people. Increasing investment in rural areas would help to reach those being left furthest behind, transform the rural environment and produce significant benefits for cities and urban dwellers.

*The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.*