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Chair: Mr. Jürgenson (Estonia)
Later: Mr. Menelaou (Cyprus)

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

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development

(continued) (A/72/75-E/2017/56, A/72/174, A/72/216, A/72/343, A/72/343/Corr.1 and A/72/353)

- (a) **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** (continued) (A/72/228)
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- (i) **Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all** (continued) (A/72/156 and A/72/160)
- (j) **Combating sand and dust storms** (continued)

1. **Mr. Dingha** (Congo) said that greater efforts and commitment were needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The challenges faced could only be overcome within the framework of the United Nations system as a catalyst for sustainable development efforts. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want were being incorporated into his country's national development plan for 2018-2022, which was aimed at the structural transformation of the economy by reforming the educational and vocational training systems and diversifying the economy on the basis of the growth sectors of agriculture, tourism and industrialization. In

the agricultural and livestock sector, the goal was to improve food security and the economic inclusion of the poorest people and of women, especially in rural areas.

2. Although the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 had brought progress on disaster risk reduction, particularly with regard to early warning systems, legislation and public awareness, disaster management remained a challenge in the Congo, despite real political will to anticipate events. With the support of the United Nations Development Programme, a national prevention and risk reduction strategy and related action plan had been developed during a national workshop in 2016.

3. His Government was playing its part in combating climate change, as evidenced by the signing of international instruments to conserve biodiversity and combat poverty. It participated in the mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD), which was a tool for sustainable development and combating poverty, and was nearing the second phase, which would involve improving the living conditions of local communities and indigenous peoples. In partnership with a forestry association, his Government had developed a programme to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in two regions, and it had signed a letter of intent on the sale or purchase of emissions reductions with the World Bank. Ratification of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change indicated his country's commitment to combating climate change.

4. Despite enormous potential for hydroelectric power generation, as well as significant gas and biomass potential, ensuring access to reliable, sustainable and affordable modern energy was a major challenge. His Government was committed to reforming the energy sector and attracting investment and, through private and public investment, had steadily improved electricity generation, transportation and distribution by the national electricity company. Although in recent years his Government had constructed production facilities and electric power lines and improved transportation and distribution networks, the Congo was far from resolving the problem of access to reliable electricity services. He called for international cooperation to help the Congo achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy for all.

5. **Ms. Premchit** (Thailand) said that, in the two years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmental agreements on sustainable development, their implementation had not gathered adequate pace. Thailand supported the role of regional

and global forums in follow-up and review, such as the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, which provided opportunities to exchange good practices and take stock of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The means of implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals should be strengthened by promoting science, technology and innovation, statistical capacity and revitalized global partnership. Thailand advocated South-South and triangular cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation, alongside multi-stakeholder partnerships, which had played a growing role in mobilizing resources and sharing expertise in priority areas. The United Nations development system remained a relevant partner for the Sustainable Development Goals; the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the United Nations system (A/72/75-E/2017/56) usefully identified how the effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of support for Member States could be enhanced to expedite the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. In order to achieve sustainable development, her country had long applied a home-grown approach known as the “sufficiency economy philosophy”. That philosophy was in line with the core principles of the 2030 Agenda and focused on self-development and empowerment through local wisdom so that the community could live in an inclusive, balanced and sustainable manner. In addition, the Sustainable Development Goals had been mainstreamed in national strategies and development plans, a climate change management master plan had been introduced, the principles of the Sendai Framework had been integrated into legal instruments and development policies, and a national disaster prevention and mitigation plan had been launched in line with target (e) of the Framework. Her Government advocated the Bangkok Principles for the implementation of the health aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

7. **Ms. Al Dahmani** (United Arab Emirates) said that her country remained committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at home and abroad by 2030. A national committee had been established to oversee the framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and link it to foreign aid, in line with the national vision for the future.

8. The United Arab Emirates had recently launched a \$50 million fund to support renewable energy in the Caribbean. The fund would offset energy costs and

create jobs and economic growth for the Caribbean community.

9. Her country, a leader in global energy initiatives, had endorsed the Paris Agreement and hosted the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency. Abu Dhabi was the largest solar energy producer in the world and the reduced cost of solar energy production could extend its use around the globe. The United Arab Emirates had become a platform for global discussions on climate change by hosting conferences and other activities on the topic, such as the World Future Energy Summit and the forthcoming World Government Summit, which would provide a platform for exchanging views, building capacities and collecting data for the benefit of peoples around the globe.

10. **Mr. Htin Linn** (Myanmar) said that there was a long way to go to achieve the goals of eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind. He welcomed the outcome of the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development. The effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals was of great importance to developing countries. In that regard, Myanmar was developing national, regional and sectoral plans in line with the Goals, and its central statistical organization had incorporated indicators into the national statistical system. Since funding was essential to effective work on the Goals, he urged development partners to maintain and substantially increase their voluntary contributions. Myanmar was committed to working with all partners to ensure that international assistance brought maximum benefits for the population.

11. Myanmar had a long coastline and several rivers that made it prone to flooding associated with climate change. Disaster risk reduction was therefore a high priority and was regulated in law and managed by a national committee. In December 2017, his Government would host the Asia-Pacific Water Summit. His Government recognized the urgent need to address the issue of power shortages in order to develop the national economy. Given the dominance of the agricultural sector in the national economy and the effects of climate change on agricultural development, national policies were being developed on environmental conservation and climate change. During the current session of the General Assembly, Myanmar had ratified the Paris Agreement and acceded to the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

12. **Mr. Tobgye** (Bhutan) said that the pace of progress on implementation of the 2030 Agenda should be

accelerated and momentum maintained in order to achieve its bold vision. To leave no one behind, the focus must remain on countries in special situations, particularly the least developed countries.

13. Efforts to integrate sustainable development in the work of the United Nations system would fit well with the Secretary-General's reform initiatives aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the United Nations development system in order to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. The consultant's report on the system-wide outline of the functions and capacities of the United Nations development system had pointed out gaps in current United Nations activities, such the underfunding of efforts for Sustainable Development Goal 7. A shift in focus was needed from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals. Given that the increasingly frequent disasters around the world were not natural, but rather human-induced, it was essential that climate change, which affected everyone, should remain front and centre of sustainable development efforts. In the case of Bhutan, glacial lake outburst floods posed a serious threat.

14. The Sustainable Development Goals addressing economic aspects, Goals 7 to 10, would be key to achieving transformative change and inclusive development. For Bhutan, energy was a key driver of growth and would continue to be a priority area in development strategies. Sustainable tourism was also important to sustainable development efforts; countries should consider innovative ways of enhancing their capacity to implement the 2030 Agenda. Bhutan had introduced a sustainable development fee in the form of a tourist tax, which was spent on implementing sustainable development activities.

15. **Mr. Remaoun** (Algeria) said that his delegation welcomed the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the adoption of the 2018-2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in particular strategic objective 3 on mitigating, adapting and managing drought and strategic objective 5 on mobilizing additional financial and non-financial resources to support implementation of the Convention. The Ordos Declaration referred to the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, an initiative that was likely to succeed if local populations were involved and diversified vegetal species used.

16. Although the effects of climate change on desertification were not yet sufficiently understood, experts suggested that biodiversity would be affected and desertification exacerbated. That could aggravate

food security challenges, in particular in the least developed countries, and contribute to epidemics and pandemics, endangering millions of lives. Notwithstanding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and given the interlinkage of issues and policies on desertification, climate change and biodiversity loss, Algeria strongly believed that joint implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity would yield multiple benefits.

17. **Ms. Simonyan** (Armenia) said that the reports of the Secretary-General under agenda item 19 demonstrated that the adaptability of the United Nations system to deliver an adequate response to the 2030 Agenda was a priority matter that required support. Partnerships and networks for sustainable development would remain an important driver of impact for the United Nations development system. Stronger partnerships with the private sector, international financial institutions, academia and civil society would be critical to mobilizing investment for the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the case of lower-middle-income countries, which needed help to navigate the evolving landscape of international development.

18. In Armenia, the 2030 Agenda was being implemented through a National Council on Sustainable Development comprising all Government ministries and representatives from non-governmental organizations, and the Council's operational arm, an inter-agency committee, that would develop a framework of national targets and indicators by early 2018. The key national development strategy was being merged with the national action plan on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, in July 2017, the first national innovation lab for the Sustainable Development Goals had been launched as a partnership between the Prime Minister's Office and the United Nations country team. The lab would be a hub for analytics and policy recommendations, primarily in support of localization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

19. **Mr. Hannigan** (Iceland) said that his country stood ready to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals at home and in its cooperation with other countries. His country's aims for development cooperation focused on eradicating poverty through sustainable development and reinforcing human capital. Iceland could share specialist experience in the areas of land restoration, oceans, renewable energy and gender equality.

20. Combating desertification and restoring degraded land was central to eradicating hunger. Reaching Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 would speed up the ability of land-dependent populations to reach other targets under the Sustainable Development Goals. Given estimates of the number of persons who could be displaced by land degradation due to climate change, target 15.3 was also key to sustaining peace. In that regard, he welcomed the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Land degradation neutrality brought that Convention into the realm of measurability. He also welcomed the 2018-2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and expressed the hope that land degradation neutrality would be addressed at the next high-level political forum on sustainable development.

21. Given that his country had historically lost large areas of land to erosion, it was proud to host the Land Restoration Training Programme of the United Nations University. Iceland had joined with Namibia to lead the Group of Friends on desertification, land degradation and drought, which planned to show success stories at the next high-level political forum on sustainable development. Sustainable use of marine resources through science-based management was a backbone of Iceland's economy; his Government had been sharing its experience and expertise in that regard for almost 20 years, and had participated in the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

22. Global access to clean and renewable energy was a matter of great importance. Iceland cooperated with the Nordic Development Fund and the World Bank on geothermal exploitation research in East Africa. The aim was to assist countries with early exploration, when the financial risk was highest. It was important to mainstream gender equality and women's human rights in all discussion and action on sustainable development as an essential component of success in the work of the 2030 Agenda.

23. **Mr. Giorgio** (Eritrea) said that desertification, land degradation and drought affected billions of persons, underscoring the need for coordinated and sustained action at the national, regional and international levels. Policy measures adopted by Eritrea included ratification of the three most important environmental conventions and the elaboration of national strategies to meet its obligations under the conventions. Eritrea was committed to land degradation

neutrality due to the importance of land-based natural resources to social and economic development. Lessons learned in soil and water conservation in Eritrea had shown that sustainable, resource-conserving and low external input techniques could be employed to bring degraded land back into production, improve yields and enhance resilience. Strong partnership was needed to succeed on target-setting and the implementation of land degradation neutrality.

24. Cyclical droughts, land degradation, desertification and vulnerability to climate change made food security a big challenge for his country. Grass-roots communities, women, students, civil society organizations, religious leaders and the armed forces had been mobilized to work on soil and water conservation and afforestation. The construction of micro and macro dams had opened up opportunities to transform subsistence agricultural production into irrigated farming. Technology and innovation would be useful tools for increasing productivity in a sustainable manner.

25. At the regional level, Eritrea participated in the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative. Repositioning the United Nations for effective support would be critical to realizing the 2030 Agenda; Member States should keep up their efforts to further strengthen the role, capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

26. **Mr. Iglesias Mori** (Chile) said that the international commitments to tackling climate change under the Paris Agreement were the result of sustained efforts to achieve consensus, and could in no event be renegotiated. While those commitments could be complemented and improved, there could be no backtracking. In recent times there had been vivid examples in his own region of the consequences of lack of action on climate change.

27. Adequate climate financing was needed, in particular additional financing for developing countries, so that nationally determined contributions could be achieved, in order to successfully meet the challenges of climate change and ensure full implementation of the Paris Agreement. Although existing mechanisms, in particular as the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Green Climate Fund, the full involvement of the private sector and partnerships were crucial to addressing climate deterioration, it was clear that they would not be sufficient. It was necessary to go further: transforming production and consumption models, sharply increasing use of renewable energy and ensuring protection of the oceans and marine and coastal

ecosystems could be of decisive importance in combating climate change.

28. **Mr. Barro** (Senegal) said that the Sustainable Development Goals could not transform the world without policies to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in particular with respect to the agricultural and energy sectors and through the establishment of multilateral partnerships under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Flagship sectoral programmes, in particular the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, needed better coordinated implementation. The international community needed to mobilize to build the capacities of vulnerable countries, in particular African countries and small island developing States, to withstand shocks and the effects of climate change and natural disasters. Efforts should also be made for environmentally sound technology transfer and the full implementation of decisions to mobilize funds through the Green Climate Fund.

29. It was important to preserve biodiversity, promote sustainable production and consumption models, sustainably manage natural resources, ensure access to energy, particularly renewable energy, and promote adaptation to climate change, in particular based on sustainable land management and combating desertification and soil degradation.

30. Senegal had reoriented its policies towards the structural transformation of the production system and the social protection of vulnerable groups. Several integrated strategies had been developed to combat poverty and improve living conditions, according priority to women and youth, and a plan had been developed to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth. His Government was promoting decentralization and the empowerment of local actors alongside a number of special programmes designed to correct imbalances in access to basic socioeconomic infrastructure.

31. **Ms. Ponce** (Philippines) said that, as a middle-income country that was highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and had nearly one tenth of its population living abroad, the Philippines accorded high priority to disaster risk reduction and management. In view of her country's first-hand experience of how recurrent and slow-onset disasters could erode development gains, disaster risk reduction and management had been mainstreamed in the national development plan and budget processes.

32. Given the need for coherence between the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda, her Government awaited the launch of the Sendai Framework Monitor.

She welcomed the Cancun High-Level Communiqué and, noting the importance of collecting data on disasters, encouraged States to use the tools developed by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

33. The Philippines was committed to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and wished to stress the urgency of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Additional impetus and resources were needed to protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, and to strengthen capacity-building for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Her country would host the twelfth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in October 2017.

34. Her Government had aligned its energy plan with Sustainable Development Goal 7, including through prioritization of infrastructure development and mobilization of private sector investment. It had also embarked on a national review of energy policy to consider how the sector could be modernized and made compatible with the Paris Agreement.

35. Due to climate change, disasters were becoming increasingly unnatural and biodiversity was under threat. The shift to renewable energy had become an imperative, and was a policy priority for her Government. The Philippines remained committed to the Paris Agreement; however, lack of sustainable financing and limited access to available funding facilities was a challenge. She called on development partners to fulfil their commitment to providing \$20 billion for loss and damage, and adaptation and mitigation measures. Capacity building assistance, especially for local authorities, was essential to achieving nationally determined contributions. To that end, the Philippines had established a People's Survival Fund for community and local authorities' climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.

36. *Mr. Menelaou (Cyprus), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

37. **Mr. Hajiyev** (Azerbaijan) said that his country was firmly committed to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. His country had launched a development concept to make the transition from a traditional economy towards a knowledge-based economy by 2020. The Sustainable Development Goals were being fully integrated into national development plans and a national coordination council had been

established to streamline relevant activities and improve coordination among stakeholders. A national conference would be held with the United Nations country office in Azerbaijan to discuss implementation of the national agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. Climate change was a global challenge that did not respect national borders; emissions anywhere affected people everywhere. It was therefore important to implement the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and related agreements in order to protect the planet. National efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda required the support of global partnerships and the contribution of stakeholders across all sectors.

39. **Mr. Oniane Nguema** (Gabon) said that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals depended on predictable and sustainable financing. Gabon was taking steps to diversify its economy based on respect for the environment and with the aim of reducing reliance on extractive industries and exposure to volatile commodity prices. That effort had already resulted in the establishment of a special economic zone. Alongside the mobilization of human and financial resources, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals also required greater involvement by the private sector. Joining efforts was even more important in the context of the damage to the economies of oil-producing developing countries caused by the collapse in oil prices. In Gabon, an economic relaunch programme had been adopted, based on budgetary reform, infrastructure development and promotion of the private sector, to tackle the resulting fall in economic activity and negative impact on employment, particularly for young people.

40. The future of the planet depended on the international community's determination to honour its commitments under the Paris Agreement. Public policies in Gabon were associated with the responsible and sustainable management of natural resources. In particular, 20 marine protected areas had been created and the reforestation policy had been strengthened. The President of Gabon had convened a meeting of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change during the current session of the General Assembly. His country called on all States parties to the Paris Agreement to support the Global Pact for the Environment proposed by the President of France.

41. Poaching was a serious threat to the environment that was decimating flora and fauna. His country was therefore sponsoring a draft resolution on the subject. Speedy implementation of the recommendations made in that resolution would be essential to protecting nature

and the survival of local populations, who were the main victims of poaching.

42. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that sustainable development involved moving beyond economic growth for its own sake to look at the development of the whole person and every person in the context of the community and the natural environment. It required sustainable production and consumption that linked persons across global supply chains in an interdependent world. The rejection of excessive individualism and inordinate consumerism was at the centre of efforts to achieve a decent life for all on a sustainable planet.

43. The absence of environmental and economic sustainability was a major barrier to integral human development. Increasingly frequent natural disasters strained the resources and capacities of even the richest countries and quickly overwhelmed smaller, less developed countries. Small island developing States faced additional problems of access for rescue workers and aid supplies. The Holy See supported renewed attention from the United Nations community to capacity-building and other efforts to build community resilience, in particular for small island developing States and the least developed countries.

44. Sudden climatic change could bring disasters that damaged livelihoods and exacerbated ethnic and tribal conflicts, particularly in Africa, where the impact of severe drought and desertification threatened security, stability and sustainability. Solidarity with people suffering the effects of environmental catastrophe was not a plea for charity but a call for justice, since many poor and vulnerable States faced heightened risks not of their own making. Problems related to sustainability could not be solved by technology or aid alone, but required a more honest reconsideration of economic systems and a change in personal and social lifestyles in order to better protect the planet. In that regard, the emphasis in the report of the Secretary-General on harmony with nature ([A/72/175](#)) on the need for a new relationship between humanity and the planet was welcome. His delegation underlined the importance of intergenerational solidarity to attain sustainable development and protection of the environment, rather than taking a utilitarian approach in which efficiency and productivity were geared to individual benefit alone.

45. **Ms. Ortiz de Urbina** (Observer for the International Renewable Energy Agency) said that recent natural disasters were powerful reminders of the need to strengthen global efforts to address climate change and sustainable development. In that context, the

transition to cleaner forms of energy was economically and technically viable and held the promise of cleaner air and water and a modern economy with more jobs and higher growth.

46. Renewable energy capacity additions had reached a record high in 2016, with the centre of capacity growth continuing to shift towards developing countries. Off-grid renewable electricity capacity was emerging as a solution for the more than 1 billion people who still lacked access to electricity. Given the impact that action taken at the current time would have on economies and societies for many decades, it was important to understand the different pathways available and the role that renewable energy could play, including in technological innovation, policy and markets, as well as the need to mobilize financing, in the process of national and regional planning. The next step was to share experience and best practices at all levels and among a wide range of stakeholders. The Committee had a key role to play in that regard, in particular in view of the upcoming review of Sustainable Development Goal 7 by the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

47. **Ms. Salim** (Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)) said that the international community had made important strides in confronting disaster risk, with many countries adopting holistic, multi-hazard policy and planning frameworks. IFRC had quadrupled investment in disaster risk reduction activities since 2009 and its member societies were focusing on finding local and participatory approaches to risk reduction. Nonetheless, the impacts of disasters continued to be felt in ever worsening ways, indicating the need to address the underlying drivers of risk. IFRC was particularly concerned by the plight of people living at the margins of society, who often had no other choice except to live in slums or disaster-prone areas; they frequently faced discrimination and poverty, and were consistently among those most impacted by disasters. A strong legal and policy framework was needed to ensure that good intentions to better integrate disaster risk reduction in development, economic and urban planning did not flag in the face of competing economic and policy needs. In the past decade, IFRC had supported the development of legal and policy frameworks in 25 countries, and stood ready to do more.

48. Spending on disaster risk reduction was a small fraction of total international aid. Despite growing international financing for climate change adaptation, very little was made available to community service organizations for adaptation activities at the local level. An innovation in IFRC funding was forecast-based

financing whereby national meteorological authorities were connected with at-risk communities and humanitarian funding was released prior to disasters. Islamic finance mechanisms were also being explored as new and additional financing. IFRC stood ready to support the roll out of resilience strategies with such new and additional financing.

49. The One Billion Coalition for Resilience sought to build a culture of community volunteerism and empowerment, and was aimed at stimulating multi-stakeholder engagement to contribute to climate risk screening in development planning that took into account potential impacts on the most vulnerable people. IFRC invited States and local authorities to invest in similar initiatives to help communities develop an understanding of risks, take action to make themselves safer and participate in official decision-making on the response to risks.

50. The years prior to the entry into force of the Paris Agreement would be a crucial time for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support Governments in shaping national and local laws, policies and plans to meet their commitments under that Agreement. At the country level, efforts would focus on supporting Governments in scaling up their ambitions as set out in their nationally determined contributions and under other processes such as the Sendai Framework.

51. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that promoting sustainable agriculture and ensuring food security and nutrition was critical, not only to Sustainable Development Goal 2, but to the efficient use of water, land and oceans and to sustainable cities, sustainable production and consumption, and addressing climate change. Agricultural technologies could play a key role by increasing the food security and nutrition of poor, rural families, increasing sustainable production and reducing food loss and waste. Initiatives must be demand-driven, accessible to all, built on existing knowledge and adapted to the needs of local communities. It was important to recognize that there was no single way forward.

52. FAO was working at the global, regional and national levels to help member States identify, develop and implement proposals that addressed their specific needs. Country programming frameworks were prepared with Governments to address national priorities and take into account wider cooperation with the United Nations system in order to ensure coherence, efficiency and complementarity. In that effort, FAO gave the utmost importance to climate action and disaster risk reduction. Through its climate change

portfolio of over 300 projects worldwide, FAO was supporting countries in implementing their nationally determined contributions in order to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. Through the Climate Resilience Initiative: Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape, FAO was working with partners to strengthen countries' abilities to anticipate hazards, absorb shocks and reshape development in a way that reduced risks.

53. FAO, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in an effort to tailor responses to countries' specific needs and respond to the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, had joined together to develop the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, which was aimed at helping countries accelerate action on food security and nutrition in a sustainable way. FAO had invested about \$4.5 million to jump-start implementation of the programme, but much more was needed; she called on partners to join in that collective enterprise.

54. **Ms. Murillo** (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) said that climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem degradation and loss were manifestations of the threat of irreversible impacts on earth systems and life on the planet. At the same time, the world was experiencing extreme inequality; one of the greatest challenges was how to respond to current needs without compromising the earth's ability to provide a healthy home, food and a natural economic base for future generations. An advantage of the current era was that the internationally agreed universal framework to address the challenges of sustainable development could be backed by scientific knowledge and technological and material resources.

55. The 2030 Agenda called for the integration of efforts, which compelled UNEP to consider links and areas and opportunities for collaboration and integration with the social and economic dimension of sustainable development in order to make a greater global impact. Member States had demanded more coherent and coordinated policy support from the United Nations system, something that UNEP agreed could be improved. Policy-making had entered a new era in which the United Nations should facilitate and promote an integrated approach to supporting the legislative and implementation process. UNEP remained committed to supporting Member States and the Committee to ensure that the environmental dimension was fully integrated into sustainable development discussions and implementation efforts.

56. The third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly would take place in December 2017, with the theme of "a pollution free planet". The main expected outcomes of that session included a coming together of Governments, United Nations entities, the scientific and academic communities, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders around a long-term programme of action to address pollution. The successful integration of the sustainable development agenda depended on the capacity of United Nations intergovernmental bodies to use, complement and inform each others' work, while avoiding duplication of efforts. Few of the bodies involved had the political responsibility and position of the Second Committee.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.