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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 14th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 13 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 21: Globalization and interdependence**

- (a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/72/301)**
- (b) Science, technology and innovation for development (A/72/257)**
- (c) Culture and sustainable development (A/72/336)**
- (d) Development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/72/329)**

1. **Mr. Liu Zhenmin** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on fulfilling the promise of globalization: advancing sustainable development in an interconnected world (A/72/301), said that the challenges and risks of globalization were often caused by imbalances in the distribution of its benefits and costs. To leverage globalization in favour of inclusive growth and sustainable development, it was essential to analyse the current system and emerging trends.

2. The report therefore described three “megatrends”, large and sustained global shifts with wide impact and the power to shape the future. First, global shifts in production had spurred deep changes in labour markets; trade openness had improved the mobility of capital relative to labour, eroding workers’ bargaining power. Second, technological change was taking place rapidly, enabling the rapid transmission of knowledge. Technology, knowledge and information exchange were becoming ever more important. The third trend was climate change, which growing evidence indicated was at least partially a consequence of globalization.

3. Although globalization could be a powerful driver of economic growth, agreements and institutional and normative frameworks must be global in scale to ensure that it benefited all countries. The United Nations system had a key role to play in addressing the interrelated challenges generated by globalization: together, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provided the substance of a normative action plan. Country-level policies based on strong national institutions and governance systems also played an integral role; the United Nations could support Member

States in devising their own policy approaches to globalization.

4. Enhanced coherence and governance of the international trading, financial and monetary systems, and strengthened United Nations support for sustainable development should complement national efforts. Global policy frameworks must address, inter alia, trade, investment, technology, employment, international tax cooperation, migration, regional and development cooperation, and climate change. The 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement provided comprehensive frameworks to address those matters, but they must be localized to ensure tailored solutions to the complex challenges of globalization. The policy recommendations in the report stressed the need for inclusive, transparent and effective multilateral approaches to managing globalization and its challenges, along with differentiated country-specific approaches.

5. **Ms. Sirimanne** (Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on science, technology and innovation for development (A/72/257), said that science, technology and innovation could accelerate achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals. The report synthesized the trends in new and emerging technologies and their impact on sustainable development, with a focus on the technological megatrends comprising the fourth industrial revolution: big data, the Internet of things, three-dimensional printing and digital automation. While technological advances were clearly beneficial — for instance, satellite early warning systems made it possible to prepare for natural disasters, and big data could be used to forecast and monitor disease outbreaks — they could also exacerbate socioeconomic divides. Automation freed humans to be more productive and creative by liberating them from mundane tasks, but as artificial intelligence became increasingly capable of performing cognitive, and not only physical, work, there was a real risk that its use would lead to rising unemployment, including in skilled sectors. The right balance must be struck between promoting science, technology and innovation and safeguarding citizens’ rights and well-being.

6. Since the last report on the topic, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development had been examining how science, technology and innovation could help to achieve, in particular, Goal 2, on food security, and Goal 11, on sustainable cities. The report highlighted ways policymakers could encourage innovation, which was increasingly taking place outside

the traditional research and development arenas. In line with the theme of the 2017 high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Commission, at its twentieth session, had discussed the role that science, technology and innovation could play in eradicating hunger by 2030, including through genetic modification and irrigation technologies for improving agricultural productivity; biofortification, to make food more nutritious; and climate-smart solutions for mitigating food instability. The report also summarized the Commission's discussion on how science, technology and innovation could support the design, development and management of smart cities.

7. The Commission stressed the role of technology foresight and assessment exercises in providing countries with the intelligence needed to evaluate the developmental impact of new and emerging technologies. UNCTAD would continue to provide foresight about critical trends, including their developmental impact, with particular attention to emerging and disruptive technologies. It was important to ensure that children, women and youth were not left behind as science, technology and innovation advanced; the diffusion of new technology must be inclusive, and many more women must be educated in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Commission had also discussed ways and means of financing innovation for development. If the Sustainable Development Goals were to be achieved by 2030, \$2.5 trillion would have to be provided every year to bridge the innovation funding gap; all countries and development partners would have to work together to that end. UNCTAD was examining innovative financing models, such as impact investment and crowd sourcing, in order to attract new sources of investment in science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions. Lastly, the Commission had noted the importance of regional and international cooperation in the fields of science and technology. At the twentieth session of the Commission, China had offered to train policymakers and young scientists in developing countries, and organize joint science, technology and innovation seminars with the Commission. More countries were encouraged to extend such collaboration.

8. It was necessary to build local capacity to create an enabling environment for existing and emerging technologies. Not only scientific and technological capacity, but also basic education, and training in engineering, design, management and entrepreneurial skills would be crucial, especially in developing countries. UNCTAD science, technology and innovation policy reviews supported capacity-building by national Governments. UNCTAD was currently developing a

broader framework for those reviews in order to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into national science, technology and innovation policies.

9. **Ms. Roudil** (Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)), speaking on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO to introduce the report on culture and sustainable development contained in document [A/72/336](#), said that the report provided an overview of the progress achieved in the development of national capacities to optimize the contribution of culture to sustainable development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [70/214](#). Member States had enacted a significant number of new and diverse policies to utilize culture as a tool for sustainable development.

10. The role of culture for sustainable urban development had been a critical focus of the programmatic work of UNESCO during the reporting period, through the implementation of its normative instruments, and the establishment and strengthening of partnerships. United Nations agencies and the Group of Friends on Culture and Development had played a crucial role in supporting the work of UNESCO to promote culture for sustainable development.

11. The cultural and creative sectors were among the most dynamic in the world economy, generating an annual \$2.25 billion in revenue and accounting for 29.5 million jobs worldwide. Member States had invested in those sectors, embraced the potential of digital technologies and forged new cultural partnerships with United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), experts, academia, the private sector and civil society. For instance, France had fostered cultural cooperation among francophone countries to support the promotion of cultural diversity and enhance understanding between cultures, building on the principles of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and Mexico had supported more than 1,800 projects for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

12. In line with the call for greater diversification of funding, development partnerships and integrated approaches in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, innovative financing for culture had taken on greater importance. Since 2010, the UNESCO International Fund for Cultural Diversity had invested more than \$6 million in 90 projects in 51 developing countries.

13. International cooperation among Member States, United Nations entities, NGOs and civil society in

conflict situations was increasing, with cultural, humanitarian and security actors working in close collaboration. Safeguarding cultural heritage and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions, while fostering values and behaviours that rejected violence and built tolerance, were instrumental to social cohesion and peacebuilding. UNESCO had continued to strengthen partnerships to support the implementation of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

14. Some countries had established indicator frameworks to monitor the implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/214, and 13 countries were using the UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators to measure the impact of culture on sustainable development more broadly. Despite progress, challenges remained, such as the need to ensure gender equality in the cultural sector. The report showed that the international community agreed on the need for inclusive development strategies that would result in equitable, high-quality outcomes, and that took into consideration the cultures of the communities and individuals involved.

15. However, there was no one-size-fits-all development model; a multiplicity of development models was needed to place culture at the core of sustainability solutions. In the decade leading up to 2030, Member States might wish to examine a revised reporting mechanism on the implementation of resolution 70/214, to ensure its full alignment with reporting on the 2030 Agenda.

16. **Ms. Holland** (Officer-in-Charge of the Global Economic Monitoring Unit, Development Policy and Analysis Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/72/329), said that while middle-income countries had a crucial role to play in achieving the 2030 Agenda, they faced significant challenges: they often had high levels of inequality, and faced difficulties related to climate change and sustainable management of natural resources. Their efforts to address those challenges could be enhanced through improved cooperation with the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions and other development partners.

17. With regard to macroeconomic trends, the report showed that although the economies of middle-income countries in the aggregate had expanded faster than the global average for decades, a trend set to continue, a number of middle-income countries were likely to face a

protracted period of subdued growth rates. The public debt of middle-income countries had increased in the period 2015–2017, which might squeeze the available fiscal space for responding to sustainable development challenges. Since the global financial crisis of 2008–2009, there had been a widespread slowdown or decline in labour productivity growth among middle-income countries, which might significantly undermine national sustainable development efforts. The report presented several policy options for boosting productivity growth.

18. The report described a small fraction of the accomplishments of the United Nations development system in terms of providing support to middle-income countries over the period 2015–2017. The examples were grouped by the type of cooperation: support for good governance, gender equality and the development of social protection; mainstreaming of support for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation; support to national Governments for determining development priorities and formulating development plans; support for the collection of quality, accessible, timely and reliable data to monitor progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; and support for addressing the consequences of climate change and effective investment for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

19. The final section of the report, containing conclusions and recommendations, noted that despite the real results that were being achieved thanks to cooperation between the United Nations development system and middle-income countries, the ambitious nature of the 2030 Agenda and new challenges required further improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the United Nations development system's activities in those countries. The report acknowledged the consensus that country classifications based solely on per capita income did not reflect the complex nature of development challenges, and that comprehensive strategies to meet middle-income countries' development needs should be based on a broader set of multidimensional measures of economic, social and environmental progress. Many middle-income countries continued to receive concessional financing from multilateral financial institutions; adequate provision of development finance, especially to countries in the lower-middle-income range, remained crucial for their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. It was imperative to ensure that enhancing development cooperation with middle-income countries did not in any way reduce assistance to low-income countries, especially the least developed countries, either by limiting the available financial resources or diverting activities and provision

of advice. Moreover, development cooperation with middle-income countries should create positive synergies for other developing countries, for example through trade and investment channels and through sharing of good practices, in particular within the context of South-South cooperation.

20. **Ms. Edison** (Nigeria) said that the report of the Secretary-General on fulfilling the promise of globalization made it clear that the benefits arising from globalization were shared unequally between countries. Mechanisms should be put in place to ensure their more even distribution. Countries' economic growth should serve to lift their people out of poverty. Without improvements in living standards, developing countries would not be able to achieve sustainable development

21. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on science, technology and innovation for development, she asked how the United Nations system intended to help developing countries to catch up with the rapid changes and advances in those areas, which was crucial if developing countries were to boost employment and trade with a view to achieving sustainable development. Nigeria had the largest youth population in Africa, but 42 per cent of its young population was not engaged in decent and productive work. If that did not change, restiveness and conflict would persist in the country, affecting its chances of making the most of its demographic dividend and achieving sustainable development. Lastly, she asked what strategies had been put in place to enable developing countries to build local capacity for the use of big data to monitor implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

22. **Mr. Pierre** (Chief of the Office for United Nations Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) said that the universally agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided a comprehensive framework to address the key sustainable development issues relating to globalization and trade, and science and technology. However, maximizing the benefits of globalization had to begin at the national level, with the establishment of the appropriate policy frameworks and legal instruments. The United Nations could play a vital role through its entities on the ground, which were actively engaged with Governments in developing such frameworks. Much was being accomplished in Africa and other regions to address the ramifications of globalization, but it was essential for the next level of engagement to be global. One of the outcomes of the recent joint meeting of the Second Committee and the United Nations Economic and Social Council had been recognition of the need for more sustained dialogue in order to determine how best to use the benefits

generated by globalization for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty

23. **Ms. Sirimiane** (Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that the United Nations had been engaged in policy discussions across the full spectrum of science and technology agencies, with particular attention to national science and technology ministries, which were often held in lower regard than others, such as finance or energy. The relevant issues were not limited to developing countries, nor could they be addressed in isolation. Science and technology policy needed to be multidimensional and multisectoral, since education and social protection systems would also be affected by the new technologies. Many middle-income and emerging countries had made technological strides but had also encountered obstacles; the United Nations was the ideal platform for sharing their best practices and lessons learned with others.

24. International cooperation was also key. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development had become a builder of bridges for North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. Encouraging further use of the Commission's resources, she called particular attention to the foresight exercises it had conducted with respect to digital technology. Similar exercises might enhance understanding of the ways in which rapidly proliferating new technologies, especially potentially destructive ones such as artificial intelligence and big data, would impact development.

25. **Ms. Roudil** (Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)), said that science education had been part of the DNA of her organization since its inception at the Institution of Civil Engineers in London, in 1955. She called attention to a new initiative to promote engineering education at the secondary and tertiary levels, in particular for women and girls. Primary education was also important, but the UNESCO mandate was to work with higher education. She had recently attended an international meeting of more than 250 deans of engineering schools who had expressed their gratitude to her organization for its support. As one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization looked forward to contributing to the successful attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

26. **The Chair** invited the Committee to engage in a general discussion on the item.

27. **Mr. Viera Salazar** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, reaffirmed the leading role of the United Nations, and in particular the General Assembly, in the global conversation on globalization and interdependence. He went on to say that it was not the time to question the landmark agreements that had been reached in 2015, but rather to implement them in order to help developing countries move forward towards achieving their Sustainable Development Goals. Such countries remained vulnerable to global shocks and climate change; their development progress would require a favourable international environment with North-South cooperation as the main channel of development cooperation.

28. In that regard, technology transfer from developed countries on concessional and preferential terms would be vital across a range of issues that included reducing the adverse impact of climate change, preserving biodiversity, improving the health of oceans and increasing the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, and strengthening educational and research and development institutions in developing countries. Without international cooperation in technology, it would be difficult to position developing countries on a more sustainable path to development. On the other hand, globalization also entailed great challenges and risks and had not fulfilled the promise of promoting equitable growth and sustainable development.

29. The new international economic order aimed at ensuring equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development dovetailed with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which made poverty eradication the overarching goal of sustainable development. In that context, the Group of 77 and China firmly believed that the United Nations was the only world body that could be deemed universal. As such, it was well placed to strengthen international cooperation and advance both the integration of developing countries into a globalized economy and the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals. To that end, the imbalance in the global economic governance architecture must be addressed.

30. Middle-income countries were home to 5 billion of the world's 7 billion inhabitants and accounted for roughly one third of gross world product. Yet 73 per cent of the world's poor lived in those countries. It would be essential to identify ways and means to meet the diverse, specific development needs of middle-income countries to ensure that no one was left behind. Stronger United Nations support would be vital to that end.

31. Official development assistance (ODA) and other forms of concessional financing remained important for many such countries. Classifying countries solely on the basis of their median per capita income provided an incomplete overview that hid significant disparities between and within countries.

32. Turning to culture, he said that cultural diversity, along with the creative and cultural industries, were important engines for the three pillars of sustainable development. Culture had an important role to play in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals related to the eradication of poverty, quality education, gender equality, decent work, innovation, and the inclusive and sustainable development of cities and urban areas, as well as sustainable patterns of consumption and production. He also stressed the importance of respecting and preserving the identity, knowledge, culture and traditional practices of indigenous communities, which were key to strengthening local communities and guaranteeing food security as well as resilience to climate change.

33. **Mr. Teo Choon Heng** (Singapore), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the current session was taking place at a time when both globalization and interdependence were under threat from growing isolationism and protectionism. However, history had shown that no country had lifted itself out of poverty without participating in the global economy. Complex global challenges such as terrorism, cybersecurity, pandemics and climate change did not recognize borders and required global solutions. Managed wisely, globalization could be a force for good, leading to a safer and more peaceful world. Multilateralism was key to achieving that.

34. For that reason, ASEAN was moving ahead with regional integration and was pursuing greater connectivity with the rest of the world. Although improved connection would increase the likelihood of transnational crime and terrorism, the Association was promoting a narrative of interdependence, both internally and with its external partners, through such initiatives as its Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025.

35. However, even the most concerted regional efforts would fail if the United Nations, with its universality and unquestioned legitimacy, did not remain the cornerstone of global governance. Together with organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations could and should support coordinated programmes to ensure that the global economic framework remained

conducive to sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, especially given current economic uncertainties. Capacity-building and an enabling environment at all levels would continue to be crucial to ensuring that developing countries became an integral part of the global economy and reaped the benefits of globalization and the knowledge revolution.

36. In that regard, regional integration organizations such as ASEAN were ideally placed to partner with the United Nations in tailoring appropriate regional and country-specific solutions to global problems. Along with the annual regional dialogue between the two organizations, the joint five-year ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action for 2016–2020 would go a long way towards strengthening that partnership.

37. The Association also welcomed the support of the United Nations for its efforts to narrow the development gap among its member States through implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan III.

38. Multilateralism remained key to harnessing globalization as a positive force for sustainable development. ASEAN looked forward to continuing to work with the United Nations to align its Community Vision 2025 with the 2030 Agenda in order to raise the living standards of its peoples and leave no one behind.

39. **Ms. Haque** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that significant gaps remained between the least developed countries and the rest of the world with respect to science and technology, which were important accelerators of economic growth and sustainable development. Indeed, the latest report of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States showed a sharp drop in the total number of patents filed by the least developed countries — from 639 to 542 — a figure far below that of other developing countries. Moreover, the scant total number of patents filed was concentrated in only a handful of the 47 least developed countries. Along with the poor showing on that critical indicator, scientific and technical articles originating in the least developed countries accounted for only 0.3 per cent of those published worldwide.

40. Advances in science, technology and innovation in the least developed countries faced several key challenges, including spending for research and development that was a fraction of that in developing countries, as well as isolation from global research networks, limited domestic capacity in science and technology and a lack of technicians and researchers. Yet, as recognized in the 2030 Agenda, successful

implementation of many Sustainable Development Goals, in particular those aimed at building resilience to climate change, natural disasters and disease, was contingent on access to clean, modern technologies.

41. In that regard, the Group wished to reiterate its appreciation for the collective efforts that had led to the establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. It wished in particular to highlight the contribution of the Government of Turkey, which had been instrumental, as well as the significant contributions of Bangladesh, Norway, the Philippines and Sudan, and urged other countries to follow suit in order to make the Bank fully effective.

42. The Group further wished to stress the need for enhanced public investment in research and development to promote science, technology and innovation in the least developed countries. Private sector support would be critical to ensuring that those countries had the necessary data infrastructure, capacity and skills to unlock the enormous promise of advanced technologies, in particular with respect to digitalization and connectivity. Public-private partnerships had already been well tested as a means of funding. Greater international commitment would be of the utmost consequence in enabling the least developed countries to utilize science, technology and innovation to achieve their Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

43. Unfortunately, there had been no progress in implementation of the legally binding commitment regarding incentives for technology transfer set forth in article 66, paragraph 2, of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. It would be vital to create a robust framework to ensure the fulfilment of that commitment.

44. Lastly, the Group of Least Developed Countries wished to emphasize the importance of knowledge aid as part of official development assistance. Viewed as a tool that could stimulate growth in science, technology and innovation, knowledge aid could make a valuable contribution to the least developed countries by supporting agricultural research and development, and stimulating industry and infrastructure with a focus on value chain development schemes, complementing foreign direct investment and the development of linkages and project funding for industrial and physical infrastructure. The role of South-South and triangular cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation would also be vital.

45. **Mr. Jaime Calderón** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and

Caribbean States (CELAC), said that all countries faced specific challenges in the search for sustainable development, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, countries in conflict or post-conflict situations and certain middle-income countries. In that context, science, technology and innovation were cross-cutting areas for development, and would enable the growth of knowledge-based societies equipped to improve the productivity, sustainability and competitiveness of the States members of the Community.

46. Technology transfer, capacity-building and the dissemination of innovations and knowledge were key engines for development and economic growth and played a major role in narrowing the technological gap between and within countries. In that regard, implementation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism that had been established with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda would be of great importance, as would the Mechanism's digital platform.

47. CELAC wished to underscore the importance of promoting cultural diversity as part of sustainable development efforts, especially given the multicultural, multi-ethnic and multilingual character of its membership. As culture was a central contributor to sustainable development, in particular with respect to eradicating poverty and reducing social inequality in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, it would be important to encourage cultural policies that promoted values such as respect for life, human dignity, multiculturalism and the principles of justice and tolerance. The Community also wished to stress the right to culture and the responsibility of States to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee that right.

48. Turning to the criteria for graduation from the list of countries eligible to receive official development assistance, he said that the current indicators, which relied solely on per capita income and were also used to determine access to trade benefits, were based on a skewed approach to development and did not reflect the tri-dimensional nature of sustainable development or take into account the profound disparities within the region or the specific vulnerabilities of certain countries.

49. Despite the enormous efforts undertaken by all its member States, most of which were middle-income, official development assistance remained essential, both to reduce inequality and structural gaps and to create and strengthen the ability of all its countries to achieve sustainable development. For that reason, it was urgent for the developed countries to fulfil their commitment

to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance. The Community called upon the United Nations development system, international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders to take into account the diverse and specific needs of its member States and to incorporate them into their strategies and policies as part of a single broad and coherent approach.

50. In that regard, it would be essential to employ multidimensional methodologies to measure development, with a view to establishing appropriate criteria for official development assistance. Such criteria should be based on metrics that went beyond per capita income and should be agreed by Governments in the appropriate decision-making bodies, including the United Nations.

51. **Mr. Margaryan** (Armenia), speaking on behalf of the Like-minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, said that high-level representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and the Philippines had participated in the Group's second ministerial meeting in the margins of the opening session of the General Assembly. They had been joined by representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Development Programme, as well as by high-level guests from Ecuador, Georgia and Kazakhstan.

52. The Group had adopted a ministerial declaration expressing its conviction that the international community, the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other relevant actors should redefine their approach to the classification of developing countries. It would be vital to move beyond the criterion of per capita income in order to ensure that no country and no person would be left behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement, as well as other key instruments.

53. Cooperation with middle-income countries was taking place on an ad hoc basis, which indeed left a whole category of countries behind. In view of the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda and the new challenges it posed, the Group urged the United Nations to develop a comprehensive, system-wide and long-term strategy to facilitate sustainable development cooperation with middle-income countries. It also called for an open dialogue on graduation policies that were sequenced, phased, gradual and tailored to countries' vulnerabilities.



54. In that regard, the Group welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendation to build on the experience of the Committee for Development Policy and model the classification of middle-income countries on the graduation criteria used by the least developed countries, namely, multidimensional measures of economic, social and environmental progress such as human development indices and indices for economic and environmental vulnerability.

55. Another important aspect to consider was that access to concessional finance declined as countries showed increasing income. Middle-income countries, in particular, might have difficulty accessing sufficient affordable financing to meet their continuing development needs. Those countries faced the risk of falling into the "middle-income trap" if prolonged stagnation or a decrease in productivity slowed their growth or even propelled them backwards, reversing their development progress. The work of the Second Committee in identifying and addressing structural gaps would be invaluable in improving the understanding of the development needs of middle-income countries.

56. It would also be important to recognize that high levels of inequality persisted even in middle-income countries with robust economic growth. In that regard, targeted cooperation for development should also address pockets of deprivation and geographic inequalities by customizing development policies and programmes. A further concern was the susceptibility of many middle-income countries to extreme meteorological phenomena, as recent hurricanes and earthquakes had shown. Timely and fine-tuned assistance was urgently needed to overcome the catastrophic impacts of such disasters on the development trajectories of the countries involved.

57. In that regard, the Group also wished to call attention to the opportunity for evaluation and transformation offered by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, with particular focus on its paragraph 10, which called on the United Nations development system to continue to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve internationally agreed development goals, and to address the specific challenges facing the middle-income countries. Greater emphasis should also be placed on the multidimensional nature of development in United Nations conferences, resolutions and outcomes.

58. South-South cooperation remained a central element of international cooperation for development and should be viewed as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. The Like-minded Group would step up its efforts to strengthen

technical assistance through all forms of multilateral, bilateral, regional and triangular cooperation and looked forward to the negotiation and successful adoption of the draft resolution entitled "Development cooperation with middle-income countries".

59. **Mr. Marshall** (Barbados), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the megatrends in globalization identified in the report of the Secretary-General on fulfilling the promise of globalization: advancing sustainable development in an interconnected world disproportionately affected the small island developing States of CARICOM and underscored the need to restructure the international community's interaction with those vulnerable States. Exogenous shocks — many of them the consequence of actions by developed countries — continued to have devastating impacts on the small, open economies of CARICOM countries. In that context, CARICOM acknowledged the importance of the United Nations in strengthening international cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

60. Climate change was the megatrend that had the greatest impact on States members of CARICOM. Recalling that the small island developing States contributed little to climate change but were most vulnerable to its impacts, he said that recent hurricanes had reduced Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica to rubble and had brought previously unknown scenes of devastation to the Caribbean. It was no time for countries to renege on commitments to protecting the planet, such as the Paris Agreement; rather, efforts should be redoubled to prevent further degradation of the environment. Developed countries must honour their commitments to provide support for developing countries' adaptation and mitigation programmes and ensure that access to funds was not impeded by onerous requirements and bureaucracy.

61. The inability of many CARICOM members, as middle-income States, to access concessional financing was a cause of concern. It was unthinkable that countries reduced to abject poverty in a matter of hours should be held to a standard that made it impossible to access the funding needed to rebuild, forcing them to borrow at market rates and increasing their indebtedness. In that regard, CARICOM welcomed efforts by the Secretary-General to make the case for special consideration for middle- and high-income countries that were vulnerable and had been deprived of concessional loans.

62. CARICOM called on the United Nations to urgently intervene regarding the impending threat of the discontinuation of correspondent banking relations with the Caribbean, which would affect such critical areas as

trade in goods and services, tourism, investments and remittances.

63. **Ms. Chowdhury** (India) said that, while civilizations had engaged with each other for millennia, modern globalization had commenced with the era of colonization and industrial revolution, bringing a need for harmonization of technical norms and institutionalized cooperation to prevent conflict and address issues of social and economic development. Over the past three decades, technological innovation had intensified globalization, shrinking the globe and leading to closer interdependence. The uneven impacts of the ongoing revolution in digital technologies, automation and artificial intelligence on economic models and the balance of political power were yet to be understood, while governance and business were being transformed by social media.

64. Choices of economic models had disparate impacts on development and prosperity within and among nations, and global economic and financial integration had, on occasion, led to dramatic collapses that ruined lives. Civil unrest and armed conflict increasingly affected places far from where they occurred. Terrorist networks and other non-State actors and individuals were becoming serious threats to international peace and security as their funding, recruitment, propaganda and targets went beyond national borders.

65. Scientific advances had improved the understanding of the impact of human activities on the environment through pollution, ozone depletion, global warming and ocean acidification. Disease knew no geography, with pandemics spreading rapidly across borders. The cross-cutting impacts of cybersecurity and global geospatial information management systems necessitated close consultations on their governance.

66. More collaborative and effective multilateralism was needed to manage the challenges and opportunities of globalization. Steeped in a tradition of interconnectedness and independence, India continued to play its part in strengthening multilateral action on climate change and meeting sustainable development challenges. Effective global governance must be more representative, and therefore fair and legitimate.

67. **Mr. Tang** Tianxi (China) said that economic globalization had brought both positive developments and challenges. Countries should strengthen cooperation in responding to opportunities and challenges and make economic globalization open and inclusive so that all peoples could benefit.

68. First, a dynamic and efficient growth model was needed. Countries should embrace innovative conceptual approaches to development, create new policy tools and growth models and promote structural reform. The opportunities presented by the new industrial revolution and the digital economy should be seized in order to develop new industries, paradigms and jobs.

69. Second, synergies and connections should be maintained to establish an open and mutually beneficial economic model. Countries should steadfastly pursue an open global economy to promote connectivity and advance trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, while opposing all forms of trade protectionism.

70. Third, a modern, equitable and rational governance model was needed. Trade rules should be reformed to ensure that all countries enjoyed equal rights and opportunities in international economic cooperation while abiding by the same rules. Equality should be ensured in global policymaking, the enjoyment of rights and the fulfilment of obligations. Commitments must be honoured and rules observed, and emerging markets and developing countries should have a more representative and stronger voice.

71. Fourth, equity and inclusiveness should be observed to build a development model that was balanced and beneficial to all. Institutional measures for efficiency and fairness should be improved. A balanced growth model should be developed that provided all peoples with opportunities for equal participation. Education should be future-oriented; the ability of the labour force to adapt to industrial change, enhanced; and employment-related structural problems, resolved. In that same context, more support should be provided to vulnerable groups.

72. China benefited from and contributed to economic globalization, and its rapid economic growth had been a driving force for stability. Its development in concert with many other countries made the global economy more balanced, while its great successes in poverty reduction had made global economic growth more inclusive. Reform and greater openness provided impetus for the development of an open global economy. The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, held in China in May, had produced fruitful outcomes in the areas of policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, trade facilitation, flow of capital, and the deepening of connections between the peoples of China and the Belt and Road countries. It had also provided an open platform for cooperation to promote economic globalization.

73. **Ms. Ponce** (Philippines) said that her country was one of the middle-income countries — a group of countries that faced specific challenges and had diversified income, economic growth drivers, social and governance structures, geopolitical conditions and levels of urbanization. Although the Philippines had enjoyed sustained growth in recent years, poverty and inequality remained high. Development gains were constantly undermined or reversed by natural disasters, which occurred more frequently due to climate change. Given the diverse challenges facing middle-income countries, which accounted for 70 per cent of the global population and one third of global gross domestic product (GDP), but also 73 per cent of the world's poorest people, the criteria used for country classification needed to go beyond per capita income and adopt a multidimensional and transdisciplinary approach that would better capture development status and allow more targeted responses. The Secretary-General, in his report, recommended using the criteria of the Committee for Development Policy for defining the categorization and graduation of least developed countries as a reference for establishing multidimensional measures to classify middle-income countries (A/72/329, para. 72).

74. Recognition of middle-income countries as a category in the United Nations system would not divert resources away from other groups of countries in special situations. Rather, her country sought to create positive synergies with other developing countries, particularly through South-South cooperation, the mobilization of resources, leveraging private sector participation, capacity-building and technical assistance. Even as the United Nations development system was urged to continue integrating middle-income countries in its work, middle-income countries needed to forge consensus on their vision of the long-term strategy of the United Nations development system towards middle-income countries.

75. The potential of science, technology and innovation to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals should be maximized through capacity-building. The Technology Facilitation Mechanism played a crucial role in that regard. Her country's national development plan incorporated measures to address low levels of innovation, including by increasing the use of science, technology and innovation in agriculture, industry and the service sector, and boosting investment in enterprises based on science, technology and innovation.

76. Culture was an enabler and driver of sustainable and human-centred development that could contribute to poverty alleviation and inclusive growth. Under the

development plan, culture was built into her country's policies and development interventions through an agenda that prioritized safeguarding cultural heritage, achieving equity and inclusion in access to cultural resources and services, and sustaining and enhancing cultural assets to foster creativity and innovation.

77. **Ms. Kharashun** (Belarus) said that she agreed that the United Nations development system should strengthen cooperation with middle-income countries to implement the 2030 Agenda and tackle emerging issues. The problems faced by middle-income countries, such as vulnerability to exogenous factors and difficulties accessing external financial resources, could only be resolved through an exchange of experiences, stronger coordination and more effective, targeted support from the United Nations development system, international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders.

78. In middle-income countries, United Nations bodies and agencies operated in a piecemeal manner. In all other categories of developing countries, there was a common approach or single point of responsibility for integrated assistance; in the middle-income countries, there was none. Her country called for the slogan, "leave no one behind" to be fully implemented by recognizing middle-income countries as a group.

79. Having played a key role in achieving the goals set out under the United Nations Millennium Declaration, middle-income countries could now become an engine for the development of international economic cooperation. Their stable development would depend on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Nonetheless, their particular interests were often relegated to second place. Middle-income countries and the Like-minded Group of Supporters of Middle-Income Countries were increasingly vocal at the United Nations and should be heard. At its second ministerial meeting in September, the Like-minded Group of Supporters had adopted a declaration that established its aims. In the immediate term, the Group wanted the United Nations to develop and adopt a long-term strategy to support the sustainable development of middle-income countries.

80. In that context, the draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries needed to be more ambitious and the issue of classification of middle-income countries should be addressed. Stressing the need for a comprehensive multidimensional indicator of progress, she proposed that the Committee for Development Policy should develop effective multidimensional indicators to assess the development progress of middle-income countries. Belarus expected to achieve consensus on the mandate

of the United Nations with regard to those issues in the revised draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries.

81. **Mr. Gonzalez Peña** (Cuba) said that, in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, the role of the United Nations in promoting development had never been so prominent. Respect for countries' diverse needs and models, and a transparent, open, non-discriminatory and inclusive multilateral system that maximized the benefits of globalization while minimizing the costs, were prerequisites for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Globalization was advancing under neoliberal precepts, exacerbating inequality as the development gap between North and South widened. Although the resources to address poverty, hunger, illiteracy and other global problems were available, political will was lacking.

82. He called for a new international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, common benefit and cooperation among all States that would redress inequalities and injustices and ensure just social and economic development for present and future generations. Developing countries needed technological sovereignty, better access to financing, investment, training, infrastructure development and the transfer of intellectual property and technologies. In that regard, Cuba looked forward to the advancement of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries.

83. Using income levels to classify middle-income countries for access to development cooperation was a limited and reductionist approach. Discriminating against middle-income countries as development aid destinations undermined the fulfilment of their national development objectives and international commitments. Countries in special situations had the greatest need for development resources. Cuba advocated a multidimensional, more comprehensive methodology for classifying level of development, particularly for middle-income countries, that went beyond GDP and per capita income to consider countries' particular characteristics and challenges.

84. Although his country struggled to develop in the unique circumstances of being subjected to the unjust and criminal embargo imposed by the United States, it had met with success in economic and social development, thanks to the efforts of its people and cooperation with sister countries. Cuba aimed to globalize cooperation and solidarity.

85. **Mr. Mulet Lind** (Guatemala) said that, unless the complexities of financing for development were addressed, the United Nations would never be able to

provide better support for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations system should use a comprehensive classification that did not exclude middle-income countries from eligibility for development assistance. Since the 2030 Agenda was universal, the criteria for determining financing for development, including ODA, should be universal too. The current criteria were appropriate for use by the development banks, but not by the United Nations development system, which had different requirements.

86. He expressed support for the remarks made by the representative of Armenia on behalf of the Like-Minded Group with regard to multidimensional measurement of poverty and development, and building on the experience of the Committee for Development Policy. Urgent action must be taken to make the system fairer, more efficient, democratic, transparent and accountable. Guatemala looked forward to the adoption of the draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries.

87. **Ms. Rabohale** (South Africa) said that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs policy brief on fulfilling the promise of globalization could enrich discussion on the topic. South Africa believed in the enhanced potential of the United Nations to address underdevelopment, inequality and unemployment and eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions. Given emerging consensus that existing levels of inequality were morally unacceptable and economically, politically and socially detrimental, Sustainable Development Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development should be front and centre of global efforts to ensure that globalization and interdependence became a reality for all. The United Nations should continue to provide normative guidance and policy support, especially to developing countries.

88. The disheartening pace of support for developing countries seeking to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda was the result of a sluggish focus on the means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development. Dwindling international cooperation with developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, was a cause of concern. Industrialized countries needed to scale up ODA disbursements, support for market access, technology transfer and capacity-building. Her delegation agreed that globalization had not delivered on its promise to foster equitable growth and sustainable development, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General on fulfilling the promise of globalization.

89. Developing countries bore the brunt of financial and economic shocks and many were yet to recover from the job losses caused by the global financial and economic crisis of 2008. There was therefore a need for strengthened global governance and an enhanced focus on an enabling global environment to unlock countries' potential to address development challenges. A positive dimension of globalization was the recognition that emerging and developing economies were entitled to a greater voice in the global governance of international economic and financial institutions.

90. The Secretary-General's observation that globalization was a powerful driver of economic growth (A/72/301, para. 27) corroborated her country's call for enhanced market access in the context of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. South Africa supported efforts to conclude the Doha Development Round and hoped that a solid and ambitious outcome of the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference would contribute to addressing the challenges affecting developing countries. The recent strengthening of protectionist tendencies by certain countries undermined global solidarity and gave cause for concern. All forms of protectionism should be rejected since they propagated regression and undermined the benefits of globalization and interdependence.

91. **Mr. Aguirre Vacchieri** (Chile) said that, like other Member States, his country was committed to the adoption of a multidimensional approach that would take into account economic, social and environmental variables on an equal basis, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It was clear from the 2030 Agenda and the report of the Secretary-General on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda (A/72/124-E/2018/3) that the Sustainable Development Goals could not be achieved by focusing on economics alone. It was not sufficient to provide development cooperation to middle-income countries on the sole basis of per capita income, nor was it sufficient to graduate countries from a classification category based on income alone without taking other variables into account.

92. The draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries would represent a step forward for those countries and provide a clear mandate for moving forward with a multidimensional approach to classification criteria and to the challenges of poverty, climate change and natural disasters. The United Nations development system should grant countries advancing from one category to the next a transition period similar to that afforded to graduating least developed countries. He expressed appreciation for the progress made by other organizations, such as the

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Bank, on formulas that took multidimensional factors into account when allocating resources. Donor communities should accelerate the process of adjusting international cooperation to the genuine needs of middle-income countries.

93. **Mr. Hoeseb** (Namibia) said that globalization was not a new phenomenon, but one that encompassed and influenced almost every aspect of daily life. Regional, continental and international linkages benefited Namibia — which had joined a number of international organizations on independence — through the exchange of goods and services. Indeed, the ability to trade internationally was essential to his country; trade relations had helped develop the economy and reduce poverty. Namibia had worked to ensure that its small economy was a balance of openness and protection. His country was actively engaged in regional efforts, such as the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan of the Southern African Development Community. Namibia linked neighbouring landlocked neighbours to the sea by supporting them with dry docks and road and rail infrastructure that connected southern Africa. His country's regional commitments were also demonstrated by activities in the health sector.

94. The Namibian economy was emerging from a perfect storm of the slowdown in the global economy, low growth in neighbouring economies, the commodity price crash and a severe climate-induced drought. He cautioned against the arbitrary classification of countries based on income alone. That approach had unfairly deprived Namibia, like other upper-middle-income countries, of access to the concessional funding essential to development. His country was relying once more on globalization to aid economic recovery. Growth was projected to increase over the coming year, and the war against poverty continued.

95. **Ms. Cerrato** (Honduras) said that an understanding of development that went beyond the traditional categories of developed and developing countries fostered sustainable development through a global and inclusive approach. The elimination of poverty — a threat to countries at all levels of development — was a global strategic imperative. A multidimensional approach was needed to identify the various manifestations of poverty and find appropriate solutions. An approach based on the single variable of family, national or GDP per capita income was at odds with a more complex economic and social reality. The measurement of income should be retained, but accompanied by other types of measurements as well.

96. The current classification of countries by income did not allow for the effective prioritization of development cooperation resources and presupposed that middle-income countries had overcome poverty and vulnerability despite continuing to face such problems. Multidimensional criteria would highlight the specific challenges and potential of each developing country and ensure that no country or individual was left behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

97. In conclusion, she called for open dialogue on an innovative approach that would encourage a sequential, phased graduation policy with solutions that could be adjusted according to each country's needs, and expressed support for the draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries.

98. **Mr. Sahaf** (Iraq) said that his country was committed to the use of science to improve the lives of its citizens and was in need of international support to boost its efforts in that area, particularly given the terrorist attacks by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which had destroyed capacities in the areas controlled by that organization. Bridging the digital divide was also made more difficult by the low price of oil, which was his country's main source of income. Technology and innovation were essential for competitiveness, and information and communications technology (ICT) offered limitless possibilities for economic, social and environmental development.

99. Since the Second World War, there had been general agreement that culture must be a force for the promotion of tolerance and human rights. That was the principle on which UNESCO had been founded. In 2013, his country had acceded to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. He urged enhanced cultural exchanges and dialogues between peoples and States, and expressed his country's appreciation for the solidarity shown by the General Assembly against the forces of evil that were destroying the millennia-old culture and civilization of Iraq. He called on the international community to provide technical assistance to Iraq to build capacities for restoring cultural institutions damaged by ISIL.

100. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives) said that the concept of middle-income countries was a paradox; it contained countries with some of the largest and most diversified economies in the world and also some of the smallest economies that relied on one or two industries. Maldives had been one of the first to graduate from the least-developed to the middle-income category, yet it

remained vulnerable to exogenous shocks. Indeed, a country became more vulnerable on graduation because it lost eligibility for ODA and concessional access to financing and export markets. Maldives had graduated to middle-income country status just six days before it was hit by the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, which had caused damage equivalent to more than 60 per cent of GDP. It had taken several years to recover from the impact of that natural disaster. Small island developing States in the Caribbean were now facing a similar situation.

101. The United Nations should engage more meaningfully in helping middle-income countries gain concessional access to financing and export markets. Income-based classification for concessional financing did not reflect the multifaceted nature of the development challenges faced by middle-income countries.

102. Maldives had risen to the challenge of graduation by building national resilience, establishing strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with countries with new and emerging economies, and experimenting with new policy instruments. Maldives and other small island developing States in the middle-income category were seeking opportunities. Development cooperation should come in the form of opportunities to trade, attract new investment and bounce back from exogenous shocks. Only then would development cooperation serve a meaningful purpose for small middle-income countries.

103. **Mr. Castro Cordoba** (Costa Rica) said that the international community, the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders in international development cooperation needed to revisit the criteria for categorizing developing countries for the purpose of accessing resources. The criteria should go beyond per capita income to ensure that no one was left behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Sustainable development reports, the global Multidimensional Poverty Index and the work of a number of countries on indicators to evaluate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals all provided guidance to that end.

104. The path to development required an acknowledgement of countries' complex realities and an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses. Costa Rica therefore called for open dialogue on a multidimensional approach to development. Broadening the international community's vision for development would lead to more appropriate, targeted and effective responses to the needs of each country with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The

system must also be equipped to take into account the changing nature of a country's needs.

105. The work of the Second Committee should enhance recognition of climate change and natural disasters as examples of the emerging challenges faced by the international community. As Costa Rica had suffered from climate-related incidents that had cost lives and damaged infrastructure, it was aware of the importance of international cooperation for countries vulnerable to such disasters. A multidimensional vision of development would be particularly important to the repositioning of the United Nations development system and to bringing that system in line with the 2030 Agenda.

106. The United Nations development system should respond to the special needs of countries, including so-called middle-income countries. Consistency in dealing with the needs of middle-income countries should be prioritized in a realistic approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The actual development of countries needed to be taken into account, including by looking at factors such as socioeconomic inequalities, the empowerment of women, access to decent work and environmental vulnerability. It was essential to understand and tackle poverty in all its forms and dimensions and to foster global partnerships to build and strengthen capacities, technology and knowledge transfer, and ensure access to ODA, particularly for middle-income countries.

107. Access to quality disaggregated data for evidence-based policymaking and to monitor progress would be key to achieving sustainable development. Costa Rica hoped that the draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries would move the international community closer to an inclusive strategy for implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

108. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that the benefits of globalization had not been shared by all, leading to popular discontent driven by rising inequality and job losses and placing greater emphasis on multilateralism and governance institutions at all levels. Global cooperation needed to be strengthened to make globalization work for all, particularly those left behind, by harnessing the benefits and minimizing the risks. He agreed that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement provided global road maps to make globalization a positive force for inclusive and equitable economic growth. Concerted global action was needed to better manage the megatrends influencing globalization: shifts in production and labour markets; rapid advances in technology; and climate change. The international community should ensure that people came

first and that accelerated change contributed to poverty reduction and job creation.

109. The United Nations had a critical role to play in persuading Member States and other stakeholders to find global solutions that respected national diversity. National efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda should be complemented by a fair, development-friendly international economic and financial architecture that gave more voice to developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable countries.

110. Developing countries lacked the human and institutional capacity and infrastructure to harness the benefits of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. International cooperation was essential to addressing the widening technological divide through technology transfer and capacity-building, particularly for the least developed countries. Ethiopia was implementing a science, technology and innovation policy, aimed at building a national innovation system that was integrated into the national development plan. It was establishing scientific and technical universities and institutes in an effort to harness science and technology to reduce poverty, increase productivity and improve competitiveness. Ethiopia, like all least developed countries, faced human, institutional and financial constraints to the full use of technologies and therefore welcomed operationalization of the Technology Bank, which development partners were encouraged to support.

111. **Mr. Madisa** (Botswana) said that special consideration should be given to middle-income countries, which comprised a broad category of countries at different levels of development, some with serious gaps in progress towards internationally agreed development goals.

112. Countries such as his faced a mammoth task in sustaining the development gains of previous decades in the face of rising costs of living, declining commodity prices, high levels of youth unemployment and challenges in achieving technological advancement and infrastructure development. Botswana supported the Secretary-General's recommendation to strengthen United Nations development cooperation with middle-income countries, including by reforming the engagement of the United Nations development system with middle-income countries, which otherwise risked falling into the middle-income trap.

113. Country classifications based on per capita income did not adequately reflect the complex nature of development challenges for middle-income countries and were not a sufficient basis for shaping strategies to meet their development needs. Measures must be taken

to move towards a refined classification system and a broader means of measuring wealth beyond GDP.

114. Development finance remained crucial to the progress of middle-income countries towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the eradication of poverty. It was of great concern that classification as a middle-income country deprived such countries of ODA and access to concessional financing and other preferential arrangements. International financial institutions and other stakeholders should ensure that the diverse development needs and specific circumstances of middle-income countries were taken into account.

115. **Ms. Pardungyotee** (Thailand) said that, while middle-income countries had benefited from globalization, they faced socioeconomic inequalities that would undermine long-term sustainable and inclusive growth. In order to escape the so-called middle-income trap, such countries needed to keep up with more developed countries by competing in the high value-added market.

116. The challenges of globalization reaffirmed the need for more sustainable development and accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which would require the engagement of all stakeholders at all levels. She reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in supporting Member States to address global challenges and implement the 2030 Agenda. That support should be people-centred, in order to leave no one behind, and tailored to Member States' specific needs and challenges.

117. Member States needed to strengthen and intensify all forms of cooperation to expedite achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Thailand recognized the growing contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to sustainable development as a complement to North-South cooperation; it had provided technical and capacity development assistance to many countries in the Asia-Pacific region and Africa and shared its "sufficiency economy philosophy" with them. She welcomed the sharing of best practices through "The South-South in Action Series", released by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in collaboration with various partners, including Thailand, and the reopening of the regional office of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in Bangkok.

118. At the national level, countries needed to further bridge physical and digital divides; greater access to information and communications technology would open up opportunities for all to attain knowledge, employment and income-earning opportunities.

Thailand had introduced an initiative to expand Internet access nationwide.

119. Local communities could make innovative contributions to sustainable development; they should be further empowered and supported by Governments and the United Nations. She encouraged greater participation in the Equator Prize, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which celebrated and promoted local communities' development projects, and congratulated all prize winners, including the awardee from Thailand whose work had promoted biodiversity in the country's coastal areas.

120. **Ms. Bakuramutsa** (Rwanda) said that globalization could advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by facilitating collaboration between developed and developing countries, leading to higher living standards for all. Her country's long-term strategic vision involved fast-tracking economic development in an enabling environment for private sector growth and strengthening regional cooperation and trade. Rwanda had attracted investors that were providing solutions to development challenges while enjoying returns on their investments.

121. The United Nations was best equipped to play a catalytic role in the paradigm shift in economic policy practices under the new international economic order. Addressing equitable economic integration for developing countries by emphasizing trade and cross-border capital flows would help mitigate the risks of globalization.

122. Science, technology and innovation could offer developing countries new market opportunities and foster economic development. Strengthening national and regional infrastructure and capacity-building in developing countries would increase innovation and bolster its practical application to tackling priority development challenges.

123. Culture could be an enabler and driver of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Rwanda had made use of home-grown solutions derived from culture to address priority issues, such as the *Gacaca* community courts for restorative justice; *Umuganda*, a form of community work that reinforced peacebuilding and nurtured a shared national identity; and the *Itorero* programme promoting Rwandan values and civic duty.

124. **Mr. Paudyal** (Nepal) said that the knowledge economy, which was an important by-product of globalization, had rendered the uneducated, unskilled and technology-illiterate irrelevant. Perceived and real



grievances with globalization were shaping the course of politics and trade policies. Countries in special situations, the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries in particular, were vulnerable to the socioeconomic shocks of globalization and bore the brunt of global problems like climate change and transnational crime and the challenges posed by terrorism and cybersecurity.

125. Reform of global governance and international financial and trade architecture was needed to make globalization more inclusive. The economies of all countries should be integrated into the global value chain and all constituent partners in the system should accrue due and equitable benefit. Connectivity, both physically and in terms of information, was key to gainful interdependence and particularly critical for island or landlocked least developed countries. In order for marginalized countries to benefit from globalization, their structural constraints and knowledge and technology deficits must be addressed, alongside unequal terms of trade and exchange. A fair and level playing field must be created and marginalized countries empowered to become equal partners, rather than passive recipients of technology.

126. Realization of the Sustainable Development Goals was an important enabling factor that required a systematic, coherent and comprehensive global approach. Better financing solutions, enhanced regional and international cooperation, support for capacity-building — including on infrastructure and big data — and technology transfer would be crucial to making globalization work for everyone. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda, alongside other internationally agreed outcomes, would be critical, along with effective operationalization of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Technology Bank.

127. As mobility had been a defining feature of globalization, Nepal called for the implementation of all migration-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure the reduction of the transaction cost of remittances and the implementation of a financial literacy campaign to utilize remittances for investments. The global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration would be instrumental in that regard. In conclusion, he stressed that the United Nations was the most appropriate global body to address the challenges of globalization.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*