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Chair: Mr. Skinner-Klée Arenales (Guatemala)
later: Mr. Braquetti (Vice-Chair) (Monaco)

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

Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development (A/73/455)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/73/63–E/2018/8, A/73/320, A/73/320/Corr.1, A/73/320/Add.1 and A/73/320/Add.1/Corr.1)

1. **Ms. Barthelemy** (Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2018 (A/73/63–E/2018/8), said that she wished to highlight the key funding trends contained in the report.

2. First, total contributions for operational activities for development had reached \$29.5 billion in 2016, an increase of nearly 8 per cent compared with 2015. Core contributions had also increased by 5 per cent, ending two consecutive years of decline in core funding. Since 2002, funding to the United Nations development system had more than doubled, taking inflation and exchange rate differences into account. However, the share of core contributions had been at an all-time low of only 21.7 per cent of total funding in 2016. The funding compact proposed by the Secretary-General was aimed at addressing that trend of quantitative growth and qualitative decline by targeting higher quality and more flexible funding.

3. Second, funding for humanitarian assistance activities had increased rapidly compared to funding for development activities. As humanitarian assistance funding tended to be primarily earmarked by its very nature, that increase had contributed to the decline in the share of core resources.

4. Third, General Assembly resolutions on the quadrennial review had repeatedly urged the United Nations development system to explore options to broaden and diversify its donor base. In 2016, just four donors had accounted for 54 per cent of contributions received from Governments. The heavy reliance on a limited number of donors made the United Nations system highly vulnerable to potential policy changes in any of its top-contributing countries.

5. Fourth, tightly earmarked non-core funding made it difficult to allocate resources strategically. By contrast, inter-agency and thematic pooled funds had a proven track record of strengthening system-wide

coherence and coordination. To benefit from economies of scale and to enable funds to act as centres of gravity and generate greater system-wide coherence, it was estimated that at least 15 per cent of non-core expenditures should be channelled through inter-agency pooled funds. The current level was less than 5 per cent.

6. Lastly, the majority of expenditures in programme countries was concentrated in a few countries, and the largest share of operational activities was concentrated in Africa. Expenditures in least developed countries were the highest they had ever been but had declined as a share of total country-level expenditures, largely due to increasing humanitarian expenditures in middle-income countries as a result of the crises in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic.

7. **The Chair** drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Review of donor reporting requirements across the United Nations system” (A/73/320 and A/73/320/Corr.1), and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Review of donor reporting requirements across the United Nations system” (A/73/320/Add.1 and A/73/320/Add.1/Corr.1). The presenters of those reports had unfortunately been unable to introduce them owing to scheduling conflicts. However, copies of their statements had been made available on the Committee’s PaperSmart and e-deleGATE portals for reference purposes.

(b) South-South cooperation for development (A/73/311, A/73/311/Add.1, A/73/321, A/73/376 and A/73/383)

8. **Mr. Iziraren** (Deputy Director for Policy and Strategic Partnerships of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Development Programme), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/73/321), said that the report focused on support that the United Nations development system had provided to South-South initiatives of Member States at the national, regional and global levels in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related international agreements in the biennium 2017–2018.

9. During the reporting period, cooperation between countries in the global South had advanced on all fronts. Along with triangular cooperation, South-South cooperation had played a catalytic role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Many United

Nations entities had further mainstreamed South-South and triangular cooperation into their implementation efforts, including through the adoption of policies and programmes that drew on resources available in the developing world, such as expertise, experience and technology.

10. Developing countries had expressed the desire to accelerate sustainable development on their own terms. In response, United Nations entities had placed South-South cooperation at the centre of their strategic priorities. The Organization and Member States were using South-South cooperation to improve access in the global South to proven strategies on poverty eradication, food security, industrial innovation and economic growth. With mass urbanization expected by 2050 and projected to affect areas of the global South in particular, efforts to bolster South-South city-to-city cooperation were expanding.

11. The United Nations regional commissions had spearheaded South-South initiatives to establish or strengthen statistical analysis capacities that were essential to effective decision-making at the national and regional levels. For example, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) had established the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia, which enabled low-cost information gathering, particularly for high-impact, low-frequency hazards. Several countries had partnered with various United Nations entities to establish centres of excellence and trust funds dedicated to facilitating South-South cooperation.

12. The Secretary-General had requested the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to coordinate the preparation of a system-wide strategy and to organize regular inter-agency meetings to share knowledge and experience and disseminate information on the South-South cooperation activities of each United Nations entity. The Office had already convened two meetings for that purpose.

13. The Secretary-General had also encouraged United Nations entities to help to direct the pooled expertise of South-South think tanks and expert networks towards the continued implementation of the 2030 Agenda through collaboration at the national and subnational levels. In addition, he had recommended that the United Nations system provide substantive inputs to inform discussions among the Member States in preparation for the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Buenos Aires in 2019.

14. **Ms. Kamioka** (Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit), introducing the note by the Secretary-General

([A/73/311](#)) transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Progress report on the recommendations contained in the review of South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system” ([JIU/REP/2018/2](#)), said that the report had been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [71/244](#) and [72/237](#) and provided a review of the notable progress that had been made on the implementation of the 12 recommendations contained in the previous report of the Joint Inspection Unit ([JIU/REP/2011/3](#)).

15. Since the publication of that Joint Inspection Unit report in 2011, notable progress had been made in the implementation of the 12 recommendations. A system-wide policy framework and operational definitions of South-South and triangular cooperation had been provided. The majority of United Nations entities covered by the review had established dedicated and identifiable South-South and triangular cooperation units or focal points at their headquarters, and measures had been implemented to improve the coordination and coherence of United Nations support for South-South and triangular cooperation.

16. Half of the entities covered by the review had achieved the target proposed in the previous review concerning the allocation of core budget and extrabudgetary resources for South-South and triangular cooperation. However, inadequate resources remained a major stumbling block in advancing support for South-South and triangular cooperation.

17. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation had developed and implemented a strategic framework for the period 2014–2017, one purpose of which was to ensure the efficient functioning of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. To further improve functioning, Member States would be consulted with a view to updating the Committee’s rules of procedure, inclusiveness and working arrangements. Reports produced for the General Assembly and the Committee could be streamlined to further enhance the Office’s efficiency.

18. The majority of respondents to the Unit’s review questionnaire had appreciated the leadership and coordination role of the Office within the system-wide approach. Suggestions for improvements had been in two main areas: resource mobilization and knowledge-sharing.

19. **Ms. Petrova** (Secretary and Director of the Chief Executives Board secretariat), introducing the addendum to the note by the Secretary-General ([A/73/311/Add.1](#)) transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board

for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “Progress report on the recommendations contained in the review of South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system” (JIU/REP/2011/3), said that organizations of the United Nations system had welcomed the recognition by the Joint Inspection Unit of the progress made at the organizational and system-wide levels since the Unit’s previous report had been published in 2011. United Nations entities had noted the broad applicability of the 12 recommendations contained in the report, despite their being addressed directly to the General Assembly and the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

20. Organizations had also recognized the coordinating role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and had welcomed the proposal to further strengthen its activities related to knowledge-sharing, coordination of resources and resource mobilization. However, organizations had underscored that individual entities must retain the ability to mobilize resources in the context of their respective mandates with the support of the Office. Therefore, the proposal to create a system-wide strategy for resource mobilization merited further scrutiny. The scope and purpose of that strategy must be clarified before the proposal could be considered.

21. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the full implementation of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and General Assembly resolution 72/279 on repositioning of the United Nations development system, was crucial. Both resolutions set out the road map for the United Nations system to better deliver development in programme countries and to ensure that no one was left behind. In that regard, the Group welcomed the implementation plan for the reinvigorated resident coordinator system presented by the Secretary-General in September 2018 and the global meeting held between resident coordinators and Member States on 19 October 2018. It also looked forward to the technical and plenary meetings to be convened in the coming months to discuss and finalize the funding compact.

22. The following key principles should drive the United Nations system. First, the system should retain its strong development focus and overarching objective of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions. Second, national ownership and leadership should be respected, and resident coordinators should ensure transparency and strong accountability to host Governments. Third, gender parity and geographical

balance were paramount in the selection of resident coordinators. Fourth, the revitalized United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks should be prepared and finalized in full consultation and agreement with Governments, through open and inclusive dialogue and in accordance with national development priorities and needs. Fifth, the resident coordinators should work closely with Governments to effectively coordinate the implementation of the Frameworks. Sixth, the presence and composition of the United Nations country teams should be determined in close consultation with the respective Member States.

23. Sustainable, predictable and adequate financing was essential for delivering a dedicated, independent, impartial and empowered resident coordinator system. Traditional donors should therefore come forward with the required funds, and an update should be provided on the commitments made by Member States to date towards the voluntary trust fund in order to address the current gap in funding. Unmet official development assistance (ODA) commitments must also be urgently addressed.

24. Resident coordinator offices should hire qualified nationals with country-specific knowledge and expertise that would benefit the work of the office and be relatively cost-effective. Furthermore, the offices, country teams and regional bodies should enhance collaboration to maximize their support for implementing the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, the critical role of the regional economic commissions, in particular as crucial platforms for intergovernmental cooperation and regional integration, should be preserved and strengthened. Redeployment of staff should be made subject to the preservation of the functions of the commissions and their value added within the United Nations development system.

25. The review of the configuration, capacity, resource needs, role and development services of the unique multi-country offices should be conducted with the active participation of the countries involved. United Nations entities must also maintain a keen awareness of the implications of that review and be given an opportunity to respond to it and strengthen the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a multi-country office setting. The Group remained committed to working with the Secretary-General, the transition team and the resident coordinators in order to collectively implement the 2030 Agenda.

26. While South-South cooperation was a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the global South, it remained a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation and should

continue to be guided by respect for national sovereignty, ownership and independence. The Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation would be an opportunity both to enhance South-South cooperation and to harness it for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

27. **Mr. Dang Dinh Quy** (Viet Nam), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), welcomed the progress achieved in implementing General Assembly resolution [71/243](#) and said that the adoption of General Assembly resolution [72/279](#) reflected the commitment of Member States to a more coherent, effective and efficient system-wide response to sustainable development. ASEAN also welcomed the introduction of the implementation plan for the reinvigorated resident coordinator system to ensure a smooth and coordinated repositioning process.

28. The development partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations continued to be strengthened. Substantial progress had been made across a wide range of activities under the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2016–2020) and in areas contributing to the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda. A joint report on the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda, prepared by the Government of Thailand, the secretariat of ASEAN and ESCAP had identified the following as key focus areas: poverty eradication, infrastructure and connectivity, sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable consumption and production, and resilience. ASEAN sectoral bodies and United Nations agencies had also made great efforts to develop specific action lines and to fully realize the potential of their comprehensive partnership, including improved coordination on disaster risk reduction and management.

29. To make the reform of the United Nations development system a success, the repositioning of the system must always uphold national ownership and leadership. Programme countries needed to be fully engaged in setting criteria to determine the composition and role of United Nations country teams.

30. Effective leadership by the resident coordinators was also essential to ensure the best performance of the system at all levels. Member States should be fully and regularly informed of the transition that the resident coordinator system was undergoing, including with regard to nomination criteria and measures to best achieve gender and geographical balance.

31. Furthermore, addressing the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources was of great importance to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensuring the independence and neutrality of the United Nations development system. The Secretary-General's proposal to increase the core share of resources in the next five years was ambitious yet essential. Donor countries must deliver on their commitments to fund operational activities. At the same time, United Nations entities should be fully accountable to Member States and should better evaluate their impact on the ground.

32. The emerging economies of the global South comprising ASEAN continued to show great potential in their South-South cooperation efforts, with intraregional export volume increasing each year. The involvement and support of traditional donors in the form of triangular cooperation also played a key role in accelerating development at the national and international levels.

33. **Mr. Dzonzi** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that while General Assembly resolutions [71/243](#) and [72/279](#) had brought about a paradigm shift in the operational activities of the United Nations development system, progress towards their implementation was mixed. Despite record need, system expenditures in the least developed countries had continued to decline for several years in a row. That declining trend must be reversed immediately with increased expenditures in all least developed countries.

34. The Group was seriously concerned that some United Nations development entities had yet to specify a category for least developed countries in their allocation of development assistance and support measures. A survey conducted by the Committee for Development Policy indicated that although entities recognized the category of least developed countries, that did not appear to translate into a consistent application of priorities and budget allocation. Most entities did not have operational guidelines with clear budget targets, nor did they have rules for budget allocations to least developed countries, which resulted in unpredictable and fluctuating resource flows.

35. All entities of the development system should develop operational guidelines with clear budget targets in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution [2018/26](#) on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020. The Secretary-General should inform the General Assembly and the Council of the progress made in that

regard in his 2019 report on operational activities for development.

36. As more countries were entering the graduation process, strong and continued support from the United Nations development system was essential to help them formulate and implement a smooth transition strategy, with a view to ensuring that their development trajectory persisted even after graduation took effect. As the primary beneficiaries of development support, the least developed countries required a stronger and broader country presence within the United Nations development system.

37. Resident coordinators and other senior country representatives in the least developed countries needed to have sufficient experience and skills to address the specific challenges and priorities in those countries and to implement the Programme of Action. The recruitment process should take that requirement into account.

38. The Group commended the Secretary-General for presenting his implementation plan for the inception of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system. It had serious concerns, however, about resident coordinator funding, which appeared to be largely dependent on voluntary contributions until 2020. Development partners must come forward with the required funds.

39. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that the United Nations development system needed to reflect the comprehensive nature of the 2030 Agenda, which must be implemented in a way that took into account the integrated and indivisible nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, CELAC commended the Secretary-General for his efforts to adapt the system and looked forward to the full operationalization of General Assembly resolution [72/279](#). It also noted with appreciation the implementation plan for the reinvigorated resident coordinator system. The focus of that new system should remain sustainable development, in line with the United Nations Development Frameworks and the principles of national leadership and ownership.

40. In the context of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, a one-size-fits-all approach must be avoided. The options for the longer-term restructuring of United Nations regional assets, to be presented by the Secretary-General in May 2019, should be provided on a region-by-region basis. Regional commissions must play an effective role in supporting and promoting South-South and triangular cooperation by harnessing knowledge networks, partnerships, and technical and research capacities.

They should strengthen their technical, policy and research support for the countries in their regions and cooperate, as appropriate, with United Nations country offices to assess the areas in which South-South and triangular cooperation could have the highest impact on development.

41. CELAC supported the work that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) had carried out over the last 70 years. The ongoing repositioning process in the region should build upon the strengths of ECLAC. CELAC would work to ensure that the new structure to emerge from the repositioning process would enhance the functions of ECLAC, protect its mandate and fully recognize its crucial role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

42. The United Nations development entities should allocate the appropriate resources to realize the development objectives of developing countries, including through the corresponding regional bureaux and with the support of the regional commissions.

43. South-South cooperation was contributing to poverty eradication and sustainable development. The repositioning process represented a unique opportunity to focus development efforts on facilitating South-South and triangular partnerships and supporting Member States in data collection, evaluation and impact assessment. Triangular cooperation should also be strengthened to bring relevant experience and expertise to bear on development.

44. Ultimately, the purpose of reforming the United Nations development system should be to make the Organization more strategic, accountable, transparent, collaborative, efficient, effective and results-oriented so that it could better support Member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

45. **Mr. Zahir** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution [71/243 \(A/73/63-E/2018/8\)](#) laid bare the need for the United Nations development system to build its own capacity and skills to appropriately address the specific challenges of countries in special situations, such as small island developing States.

46. Traditional broad-based development actions had been limited and ineffective in small island developing States with highly dispersed islands and populations. Reaching the furthest behind first in those States required creating innovative strategies, building national capacities and utilizing local mechanisms to

improve data collection and to design and implement programmes.

47. The States members of the Alliance had been among the first to adopt such critical sustainable development instruments as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. They remained committed to strengthening the United Nations development system, thereby enabling it to deliver the assistance they needed to fully implement the 2030 Agenda. The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) remained the blueprint for their development.

48. The current funding mechanism for the development system had failed to provide the anticipated level of predictability or stability. Development partners must therefore treat the matter with great urgency, including through continued dialogue.

49. As the destiny of small island developing States and their peoples was tied to multi-country offices, they looked forward to the findings and recommendations from an extensive and inclusive review of those offices in 2019. A high-level midterm review would also be conducted in 2019 to assess the progress made in the five years since the adoption of the Samoa Pathway. That process would require the constructive engagement of the international community, including in the form of voluntary trust fund contributions.

50. Partnerships were of particular importance to small island developing States and must be genuine, durable and based on mutual respect. The United Nations could be of assistance in formulating policies and guidelines to develop private sector partnerships, which would also benefit the United Nations development system. However, it was important that United Nations entities not compete with programme countries for opportunities to partner with local private enterprise. The United Nations should focus on developing partnerships with the international private sector, while supporting the establishment of partnerships between Governments and local private enterprise.

51. While North-South cooperation remained the primary means of development cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation should continue to be included in the policies and strategic frameworks of the funds and programmes of the United Nations

development system as a complement to, rather than a replacement for, such cooperation.

52. Lastly, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation should be strengthened so that it could be of more assistance to developing countries by providing guidelines, ground rules and policy advice. The Office should develop a better foundation and improved protection for South-South cooperation and facilitate the sharing of best practices.

53. *Mr. Braquetti (Monaco) took the Chair.*

54. **Mr. Webson** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that special attention should be given to funding for the reinvigorated resident coordinator system and the multi-country offices in the context of small island developing States. Poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable development must be the guiding principles for operational activities for development. Member States should ensure that the requisite resources were provided on an adequate and predictable basis.

55. The United Nations development system played a crucial role in addressing long-term development challenges in recipient countries, inter alia, by ensuring the promotion and transfer of new technologies, increasing system-wide capacity-building and facilitating programme country access to the full range of services available throughout the system, including the regional commissions and their subregional offices.

56. The significant and growing imbalance between core and non-core funding weakened the multilateral framework of development assistance by propagating conditional funding that perpetuated an incoherent approach to programme delivery and undercut development effectiveness. Irrespective of the rationale for increased conditions on non-core resources, the unpredictability of funding only increased operational costs and further fragmented the United Nations development system, including at the country level. Development assistance should be responsive to national policies and plans and be free from conditions that often impeded efficiency and effectiveness. Operational activities for development should take into account the need to encourage national capacity-building.

57. The failure of developed countries to meet their ODA commitments was a matter of concern, particularly as levels continued to decrease and major funding gaps remained. The global economy had recovered from years of recession, yet most donors were still not on track to meet their commitments to increase ODA. If

that trend persisted, fundamental universal goals would soon be out of reach.

58. Predictable and adequate funding was an essential component for the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway, which highlighted the critical nature of funding for small island developing States. Priority should be given to increasing funding for the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The review of the Samoa Pathway in 2019 would highlight potential gaps and deficiencies requiring urgent attention during the five years that remained.

59. CARICOM looked forward to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and remained optimistic that Governments would agree on an outcome that was concise, focused and action oriented, whereby South-South cooperation would be strengthened and invigorated in order to meet the needs of developing countries.

60. **Mr. Gadabu** (Nauru), speaking on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States, said that they fully supported a systematic reform that took into account specific regional and national development priorities and embodied the pledge to leave no one behind. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review had a mandate to appropriately tailor the role and operational activities of multi-country offices. Pacific small island developing States should be consulted in the fulfilment of that mandate in the region.

61. United Nations operations in the Pacific region were organized under a multi-country arrangement, led by two resident coordinators and a joint United Nations country team linked across two regional hubs in Fiji and Samoa. The regional office was geographically remote from many of the countries it served and only accessible by long, indirect and expensive air travel that placed a significant burden on already limited resources. The United Nations presence in underserved areas of the Pacific must be expanded to enhance the effectiveness and representative quality of the multi-country offices and to strengthen their functions in order to meet the complex development challenges and priorities faced by Pacific small island developing States.

62. The multi-country office in the Pacific region needed sufficient resources to sustain the travel budgets of its personnel and to meet increased demands for coordination. Under the current system, inadequate annual travel budgets meant that a resident coordinator might be unable to make an annual visit to the countries

under the purview the multi-country office. Scaling the proposed discretionary funds to the number of countries under an office's purview could be one avenue for ensuring that resource needs were adequately met.

63. Finding adequate and predictable sources of financing through core resources was desirable, particularly where long-term planning was required to prevent humanitarian challenges. The Pacific small island developing States supported the proposal in the implementation plan for a long-term sustainable funding model for the resident coordinator system, as well as a closer examination of efficiency gains and a revised cost-sharing formula.

64. General Assembly resolution [71/243](#) mandated limiting the number of countries covered by a given multi-country office. In that context, it should be considered whether it was appropriate to continue to give one resident coordinator responsibility over so many distinct countries, and over so great a distance. In accordance with the mandate of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, a new multi-country office should be established in the North Pacific region.

65. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that the reformed United Nations development system should be more coherent, effective and efficient and must respect national ownership, leadership and development priorities. While enhanced resources for implementation should lead to improvements in the system's predictability and impartiality, traditional donors would need to step up their voluntary contributions for the timely operationalization of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system.

66. Resources meant for core development programmes must not be diverted, as that would be detrimental, especially to the least and landlocked least developed countries and small island developing States. The operational activities for development segment of the Economic and Social Council would be a welcome opportunity for meaningful discussion on the implementation plan and the proposed funding compact for the repositioned development system.

67. The global partnership agreed in Sustainable Development Goal 17 would be crucial for meeting the challenges of developing countries. The scope of South-South cooperation had expanded well beyond technical cooperation and knowledge exchange to include trade, investment, infrastructure, connectivity and the coordination of development policies and strategies. However, as South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation were fundamentally distinct from North-South cooperation, they must complement rather than replace or dilute it.

68. India, which had unique experience in nation-building due to its large size and complex reality, welcomed the opportunity to share experience and knowledge with similar countries in the global South and proactively facilitate the evolution of South-South cooperation, including by hosting summits and conferences. His delegation looked forward to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in 2019. To step up its efforts towards South-South cooperation India had established the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund and had committed \$150 million in funding for development projects in least developed countries and small island developing States, with 22 projects launched in 2018 already. India was steadfastly committed to continuing to share its development experience and expertise.

69. **Mr. Skoknic Tapia** (Chile) said that transformative economic, political, technological and sociocultural changes had directly affected the system for international cooperation. In that context, South-South cooperation was enabling dialogue between developing countries to help them face common challenges and sidestep the dominant paradigm of North-South cooperation. Chile welcomed the leadership taken by countries in the South, as reflected in the increased number of South-South cooperation initiatives in the region. South-South cooperation based on a multidimensional development vision was an important part of his country's foreign policy.

70. Since the 1990s, Chile had been offering technical assistance and training in the areas where it had comparative advantages in Latin America and the Caribbean and had recently begun expanding into other regions. The Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development had provided training to thousands of people from the global South. That Agency had also been engaged in triangular cooperation since 1998 and, in 2017, had partnered with 14 countries and bodies as a triangular partner and with 39 countries and bodies as a beneficiary partner.

71. Chile had also established innovative financing mechanisms in joint cooperative funds, including with Mexico and Spain, and a Chilean fund against hunger and poverty focused on Latin America and the Caribbean, the insular Pacific and Africa. Those funds had enabled important projects to be completed, including rebuilding the Chilean school in Haiti after the devastating earthquake of 2010, in collaboration with actors from the private sector, civil society and academia.

72. Development cooperation policy and national development plans were slowly coalescing around the 2030 Agenda. Its implementation would require enhanced mobilization of both financial and non-financial resources. In that regard, preparations for the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation were welcome. The Conference would be a unique opportunity to address current challenges in the management of triangular and South-South cooperation; highlight their contributions in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; promote triangular cooperation to foster the involvement of other international system actors; and promote global alignment with the sustainable development paradigm.

73. Reporting and data generation systems for those types of cooperation must be strengthened and multidimensional development measurement mechanisms devised. Doing so would make it possible to reassess contributions made in the context of South-South cooperation and generate programmes, measures and policies worldwide to increase their impact, scope and sustainability.

74. **Mr. Alkadi** (Saudi Arabia) said that efforts to reform the United Nations development system should take into account countries' differing capacities, priorities and national legislations. The various development funds should strengthen their accountability and transparency measures. He expressed concern about recent declines in core contributions.

75. His country supported South-South cooperation and had been providing development assistance to other countries since the 1950s, including both direct assistance and preferential loans. Saudi Arabia was always among the first States to respond to emergency appeals for countries in crisis. It had forgiven over 6 billion dollars of debt owed by poor countries and had allocated some 1.9 per cent of its gross national income – well above the 0.7 per cent target – to ODA. That had amounted to over 100 billion dollars over the previous 30 years.

76. **Mr. Ustinov** (Russian Federation) said that every stage of reforming the United Nations development system, including the Secretary-General's implementation plan on the resident coordinator system, the dialogue on financing, the creation of a new system-wide assessment body and the development of recommendations on improving the regional dimension and restructuring the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, should be organized on the basis of complete transparency and inclusivity. Member States

must be consistently and thoroughly informed about the work conducted by the Secretariat in that regard.

77. Restructuring of the development system should be conducted in accordance with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development and be supplemented by regular briefings on the functioning of the Steering Committee of Principals. As that Committee was an important component of the Secretary General's reform agenda, it was regrettable that, to date, no information had been received about its work. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/279, the most appropriate platform for Member States to discuss the steps to take on reform of the development system was the operational activities for development segment of the Economic and Social Council.

78. It was evident that financing was one of the greatest obstacles to implementing reform. His delegation was prepared to hold a constructive dialogue to determine funding parameters for the reinvigorated resident coordinator system and modalities for the voluntary trust fund. The medium-term efficiency gains from the reform, which were one of the main purposes for it, would cover the financial expenses. They would not only sustain the new generation of resident coordinators, but also make it possible to obtain the required funding in the long term and forego additional fundraising, thereby incentivizing partners and donors to support the development system.

79. The previous week's meeting with resident coordinators had been a useful exercise, albeit inexplicably short. Such meetings must be organized with sufficient time for discussions, such as on the margins of the operational activities for development segment of the Economic and Social Council.

80. The Russian Federation welcomed the expansion and improvement of cooperation mechanisms among developing countries. In that context, the agenda of the upcoming Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, should be determined by the countries of the South and be guided by the principles of respect for sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-intervention in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

81. **Ms. Regueira** (Cuba) said that the United Nations development system had an essential role to play in promoting the achievement of national development priorities and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in order to advance the sustainable development of the countries of the South. The system should be make a greater contribution to addressing the specific

development challenges faced by the most vulnerable countries.

82. The ambitious reform process of the United Nations development system must strictly respect the principles guiding operational activities at the country level, notably the development system's neutrality, intergovernmental nature and strictly development-related objective.

83. North-South cooperation through regular and unconditional resource contributions must continue to be the cornerstone of operational activities for development. Financing within the United Nations development system must maintain the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, be distinct from the financing mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and be based on the three pillars of development.

84. Developing countries should be decisive participants in the governance of the development system, which must operate based on flexible and inclusive policies that respected national sovereignty, self-determination of peoples and government ownership of development processes.

85. Cuba was firmly committed to South-South cooperation and to enhanced and inclusive regional and global cooperation based on solidarity and mutual respect. Her delegation looked forward to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation as an opportunity to strengthen current mechanisms and institutional partnerships. However, North-South cooperation and ODA must remain the main mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other pending global goals.

86. **Ms. Mendoza Elguea** (Mexico) said that the Sustainable Development Goals would not be achieved by maintaining the status quo. States must take the lead in reforming the United Nations development system while making any necessary adjustments to their own national policies.

87. Many fundamental issues not addressed by the reform of the United Nations system, such as those related to the humanitarian-development nexus, would need to be dealt with at the national level. As Mexico was a country vulnerable to national disasters, it was inconceivable that the resident coordinator would not be involved in relief efforts in the event of disaster-related emergencies.

88. The United Nations Secretariat must have the resources required to make its contribution to the cost-sharing mechanism for the resident coordinator system. In that regard, it was important for delegates from the

Second and Fifth Committees to coordinate efforts to ensure that budget negotiations in December 2018 reflected the existing consensus and commitments.

89. The operational activities for development segment of the Economic and Social Council in May 2019 provided a suitable forum to monitor implementation of the development reforms, as the new resident coordinator system would already have been launched. The segment would also offer an opportunity to discuss how regional reforms would dovetail with national and global reforms. In that context, Mexico would emphasize that ECLAC should be recognized as one of the main actors involved in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, as each regional commission had its own distinctive mandate and work, the Secretary-General's relevant analysis should be presented on a regional basis.

90. Mexico remained committed to the United Nations development system and underscored that new working methods must be consolidated to implement the 2030 Agenda and ensure that no one was left behind.

91. **Ms. Lora-santos** (Philippines) said that the principles of inclusivity and leaving no one behind were paramount for her country and that the operational activities of the United Nations development system must be aligned with the national plans, priorities and changing needs of Member States. Those precepts had guided the country programme documents and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks of the Philippines, as well as its engagement with the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

92. A reinvigorated, transparent and accountable resident coordinator system would serve as the cornerstone of the repositioned United Nations development system. The Secretary-General's implementation plan in that regard was welcome as it would allow the resident coordinator system to maintain its focus on development and poverty eradication while closely engaging with host countries and providing tailored assistance. The Philippines faced the challenges of a middle-income country and was also one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. As such, it underscored that countries must be consulted in the choice of country teams and resident coordinators, who must have skillsets and profiles aligned with host country needs.

93. Although programme countries must bear their fair share of development costs, stable, robust and sustainable funding was required in the repositioned system to address the decline of core contributions and ensure that countries were not excessively burdened. Enhanced cooperation on development policy analysis

would be required between resident coordinators and the United Nations development system to mobilize system-wide resources and expertise.

94. While South-South cooperation was essential to the development efforts of developing countries, it must be a complement to rather than a replacement for North-South cooperation. Initiatives contributing to the institutionalization of South-South cooperation in the United Nations development system were welcome, including the strengthening of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. Her delegation also welcomed the support provided to South-South initiatives of Member States at the national, regional and global levels to implement the 2030 Agenda and looked forward to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

95. **Mr. Shumski** (Belarus) said that while General Assembly resolution [71/243](#) and the implementation plan to reinvigorate the resident coordinator system were both welcome, they were only the first steps towards reforming the United Nations development system. The success of repositioning the system would be indicated by tangible improvements in the quality of support provided to Member States for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Full and unwavering compliance by all Member States with the agreed reorganization principles was required to increase system-wide coherence and prevent fragmentation. Indeed, such compliance was a prerequisite for the balanced implementation of the agreed reforms.

96. Member States bore the main responsibility for ensuring sustainable development on their territories and coordinating all types of foreign aid. The challenge of reforming the renewed development system lay in the targeted and effective integration of such aid into the national development process.

97. It was important to enhance the level of cooperation between the reinvigorated resident coordinator system and national sustainable development mechanisms and institutions. In that context, Member States should view United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks as providing the fundamental mandate for the entirety of the United Nations system's work at the country level. In addition to coordinating planning cycles at the global level, the Frameworks should be seen as an instrument for assisting Governments with priority areas and national mechanisms to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

98. Belarus welcomed the Secretary-General's acknowledgement of the need to give increased

assistance to middle income countries, which required an overarching and long-term strategy to achieve sustainable development. His Government looked forward to receiving substantive assistance from the Secretariat and United Nations agencies in that regard.

99. While many aspects of reorienting and strengthening the sustainable development system were becoming clearer and more transparent, a number of practical issues remained unaddressed. For example, it was difficult to see how earlier assistance agreements concluded between the United Nations Development Programme and host countries, which set out specific terms of financial support, could now be extended to resident coordinators. A timely and thorough discussion was also needed of several issues that went beyond the normal scope of diplomatic immunity, including resident coordinators' working conditions, their offices, the individual units set up at those offices to support all country groups and the business or other kinds of services provided by them.

100. **Ms. Benjasil** (Thailand) said that a repositioned United Nations development system delivering tangible results in people's lives was instrumental to rebuilding confidence in the United Nations in a context where multilateralism was being questioned. A smooth transition towards a more effective and relevant development system was a priority and the reinvigorated resident coordinator system was welcome in that regard. Thailand had contributed \$200,000 to support the full operationalization of the resident coordinator system.

101. Underlining the importance of regular dialogue and consultations between resident coordinators and host Governments, she said that resident coordinators must have a good understanding of national contexts and work to build trust and confidence in order to lead the United Nations country teams towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Resident coordinators could play an active role in promoting multi-stakeholder engagement in national development efforts based on United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. They should also help partners to access untapped potentials while working towards the common objective of leaving no one behind.

102. A revamped regional architecture would be required to keep up with global change. As the host of ESCAP, Thailand supported a region-by-region approach to development with deepened coordination between regional and sub-regional organizations for enhanced coherence. ESCAP should strengthen its engagement with ASEAN to build on complementarities between its 2025 Vision and the 2030 Agenda. The ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies

and Dialogue, to be established in 2019, would serve as a platform for that endeavour.

103. Thailand supported South-South and triangular cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation and had been cooperating with developing countries around the globe to promote infrastructure and build human capital and capacity through demand-driven, people-centred and evidence-based means. Thailand was keen to work with existing and new partners based on its "sufficiency economy philosophy". It had contributed \$50,000 to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and had reassigned officers to the regional office of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in Bangkok. Thailand looked forward to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation as an opportunity to assess progress, identify gaps and ensure that cooperation was fit for the current context.

104. **Mr. Al-Mahmoud** (Qatar) said that the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda should be pursued through international cooperation, with due attention paid to different States' circumstances, capacities and needs. He commended the Secretary-General's vision for reform of the United Nations development system and pledged that his country would help with the necessary financing. A reinvigorated resident coordinator system would be a crucial element of that reform. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review would also be an important tool for ensuring that operational activities supported the efforts of developing States in a coordinated and comprehensive fashion.

105. As the Secretary-General had noted in his report on South-South cooperation ([A/73/321](#)), there was a growing consensus throughout the United Nations system that South-South learning and policy coordination and the transfer of expertise and technology were effective ways to accelerate sustainable development. Qatar had hosted the Second South Summit in 2005 and the Arab States Regional South-South Development Exposition in 2014. It regularly provided development assistance and humanitarian aid – above and beyond its ODA contributions – to countries facing economic difficulties, humanitarian crises or natural disasters. His country looked forward to taking part in the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Buenos Aires in 2019, and the Third South Summit scheduled to take place in Uganda in 2019.

106. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that he expected General Assembly resolution [72/279](#) on repositioning of

the United Nations development system to be implemented in full. In particular, his delegation supported reinvigorating the role of the resident coordinator system with the eradication of poverty as its overarching objective, consistent with the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda and in line with United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and national leadership and ownership. The Frameworks should be prepared and finalized in full consultation and agreement with national Governments. As Darfur completed its transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding over the coming few years, his country trusted that adequate resources would be provided to the United Nations country team in the Sudan so that it could step up development activities in Darfur and throughout the country.

107. South-South cooperation was a complement to North-South cooperation, not a substitute. His country looked forward to the upcoming Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in 2019.

108. **Mr. Benarbia** (Algeria) said that although the repositioning of the United Nations development system had not reflected all of the Secretary-General's proposals, it had led to the best currently achievable outcome and the system was fit for purpose to implement the 2030 Agenda. The Secretary-General's implementation plan for the reinvigorated resident coordinator system and the steps taken to launch consultations on the funding compact had been welcome. In that regard, the role of African countries deserved special attention. Algeria looked forward to updates on the operationalization of the resident coordinator system and the status of contributions to the related trust fund.

109. His delegation also looked forward to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which should be used as a platform to strengthen the catalytic role of such cooperation in implementing the 2030 Agenda. South-South cooperation expressed the solidarity of developing countries to achieve sustainable development together and must not be a reason for disengagement from North-South cooperation, which remained the main framework of international cooperation for development.

110. **Mr. Bolaji** (Nigeria) said that the importance of promoting, building and strengthening the capacity of developing countries in their sustainable development efforts could not be overemphasized. All United Nations development system entities must be strategic, accountable, transparent, collaborative, efficient and effective in delivering results at the country level. In that

regard, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development remained the appropriate instrument to guide development efforts.

111. The reinvigorated resident coordinator system must operate according to the principles of national leadership and ownership while remaining apolitical, focusing primarily on host country development and providing support based on national needs and priorities. United Nations operational activities for development must also respond to the specific needs of developing and least developed countries. His delegation welcomed the steady increase in expenditures in Africa in the context of the strategy to reach those furthest behind.

112. As ODA remained one of the main channels of development assistance, developed countries must fulfil their unmet ODA commitments. In line with the Secretary-General's report on operational activities for development ([A/73/63-E/2018/8](#)), his Government appreciated the nexus between development and humanitarian issues. However, ODA should not be diverted to humanitarian assistance, especially by donor countries.

113. The importance of South-South cooperation in addressing obstacles to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was demonstrated by the growing interest in peer learning and knowledge-sharing shown by a growing number of Governments in developing countries. For example, his country's Technical Aid Corps was responsible for South-South cooperation initiatives at all levels and challenged the perception that Africa was only a recipient of assistance. It had made positive development contributions in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Nigeria supported a strengthened role for the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in knowledge-sharing and particularly welcomed the establishment of an inter-agency mechanism and the appointment of focal points who would work to strengthen information flows and share best practices, knowledge and experience in preparation for the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

114. **Ms. Li Jia** (China) said that, in an international context of instability and uncertainty, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 would be an arduous task. Developing countries must still eradicate poverty, improve livelihoods and comprehensively improve economic and social development while protecting the environment. The United Nations development system should actively implement General Assembly resolutions [71/243](#) and [72/279](#), continue to focus on development, increase investment and

effectively help developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda.

115. Following up on the repositioning efforts of the United Nations development system was a long-term project that should adhere to the mandate established in General Assembly resolution [72/279](#). Development was central to those reform efforts and poverty eradication remained the primary task. The process must be led by and accountable to Member States, increase the voice and representation of developing countries and help to solve their practical difficulties.

116. China supported the strengthening of the United Nations development system through reform, which should enhance coordination, cooperation, cohesion and synergies among United Nations agencies. It should also promote the implementation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and country programmes while taking into account the national conditions and priorities of programme countries.

117. Increased mobilization of development resources was necessary in the face of an enduring lack of funds and an uneven resource structure within the United Nations development system. The new resident coordinator system would urgently need adequate funding to be operational in 2019. Developed countries should increase their core resource contributions and the flexibility of non-core resources while abiding by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

118. Developing countries should do their best to provide the United Nations development system with voluntary contributions and local resource support. Other stakeholders, including the private sector, should contribute while respecting the priorities of programme countries and the core values of the United Nations.

119. Solving the problem of inadequate and uneven development in developing countries was an urgent task for the international community. It was imperative to strengthen development partnerships and build a development cooperation pattern with the United Nations as the core, North-South cooperation as the main channel and South-South cooperation as a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation. The responsibilities, principles and standards of North-South cooperation could not be applied to South-South cooperation.

120. The Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in 2019 should uphold the basic principles of South-South cooperation, promote initiatives by the countries of the South, including the Belt and Road Initiative, and deepen pragmatic cooperation in poverty reduction,

infrastructure development, education and health to create a favourable environment for long-term South-South cooperation.

121. China urged developed countries to fulfil their ODA commitments, provide technology transfer to developing countries, and help them enhance their development capabilities. The United Nations development system should support South-South cooperation in line with the actual needs of developing countries.

122. As the world's largest developing country, China upheld the vision of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development. It was committed to lifting the rural poor out of poverty and was assisting other developing countries to the best of its abilities within the framework of South-South cooperation. In 2018, China had increased its contributions to relevant United Nations development system agencies. China had also successfully hosted forums on regional cooperation in conjunction with countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab States.

123. **Mr. Paudel Chhetri** (Nepal) said that the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda demanded a highly responsive, effective and streamlined United Nations development system. General Assembly resolution [71/243](#) provided good guidance in that regard, and the operationalization of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system in January 2019 through the implementation plan of the Secretary-General would be welcome. National ownership and leadership at all levels was critical to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024.

124. The core function of the resident coordinator was to ensure that United Nations efforts, especially through United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and country programme documents, were coordinated and aligned with the mainstream development plans and priorities of Governments. National ownership would avoid duplication and wasted resources that might erode trust and confidence, even potentially jeopardizing the credibility of the United Nations itself in the long run. For the repositioned system to be effective, a new generation of country teams would not only need to learn new methods but also unlearn unhelpful habits.

125. Nepal had engaged in a successful political process resulting in a new Constitution, elections and a new Government. Having shifted its focus to development and prosperity, Nepal placed faith in the ability of the repositioned United Nations development

system to effectively address its development needs and priorities. In that regard, adequate means of implementation and optimum use of those means were crucial for an empowered and impartial resident coordinator system. Funding should be predictable and aligned with priorities of programme countries. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the international community must work to bridge the widening funding gap, as core resources were the bedrock of the United Nations development system.

126. South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation had great potential to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The upcoming Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was an important opportunity to set new benchmarks and harness the benefits of that cooperation.

127. Those furthest behind in the most vulnerable countries would bear the brunt of any failure of the reinvigorated United Nations development system to deliver on its promises. The ability to meet the needs of those countries would be the true litmus test of the repositioning of the United Nations development system.

128. **Mr. García Moritán** (Argentina) said that South-South cooperation had been growing for more than four decades and increasingly involved a variety of actors. Its various working methods were guided by enduring principles anchored in the distinct histories, economic capacities, political systems and realities of countries of the South.

129. The Group of 77 and China had played an important role in the advancement of South-South cooperation worldwide. However, despite important achievements, developing countries continued to face significant economic, social and environmental challenges. Sharing development-related knowledge, experiences and solutions, including through the enhancement of triangular and South-South cooperation, would be critical for the global South to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

130. The Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Buenos Aires in March 2019, would further the integration of South-South cooperation into national development plans and build the capacity of government bodies to meet relevant needs. The Conference would be an opportunity for honest debate on concrete measures to improve reporting and evaluation, including voluntary reporting, and for the creation of knowledge-sharing platforms to broaden access to existing capacities and promote new partnerships. Regional

platforms were also important in developing institutional capacity and methodology.

131. An evaluation should be performed to determine how the United Nations could best support the development of countries in the South. The recent repositioning of the development system was an excellent opportunity to continue to move forward, including through a renewed role for country offices both in the coordination of support and in the operationalization of monitoring mechanisms.

132. South-South cooperation played an important role as a complement to North-South cooperation. Raising the profile of that contribution would also promote triangular and other types of cooperation. For Argentina, the added value of triangular cooperation was that it provided demand-driven support aligned with national priorities.

133. **Ms. Engelbrecht Schadtler** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the work of the United Nations development system should be governed by compliance with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. Resources available on the ground for operational activities must be used efficiently, effectively and transparently, based on the principle that operational activities for development were universal, voluntary and adapted to specific national development needs.

134. Venezuela supported the repositioning of the United Nations development system and highlighted the crucial role of a regional and subregional focus in implementing the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, the existing functions of the regional economic commissions should be improved and their role enhanced as crucial platforms for intergovernmental cooperation and regional integration. The valuable assistance provided by ECLAC in the areas of national capacity-building, integrated policy advice, policy support and technical assistance should also be maintained.

135. Based on direct peer-to-peer relations between nations, South-South cooperation was integrative and strategic. As a complement to rather than a substitute for North-South cooperation, it promoted apolitical bilateral cooperation that respected the various ideologies and forms of government and led to projects that were far more effective, efficient, relevant and sustainable.

136. Technology transfer must be strengthened to boost agricultural and industrial production in developing countries. Promoting small and medium-sized businesses and the manufacturing, industrial and raw

materials processing sectors would lead to increased and more diverse production over the medium term.

137. Venezuela had entered into an oil alliance that had been facilitating access to petroleum products for Caribbean nations for over a decade. Part of the cost of the oil was being used to finance long-term development projects. Her country had also participated in regional bilateral summits through the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

138. **Mr. Rahmanto** (Indonesia) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review had laid out the pathway for a stronger United Nations development system to better support countries in meeting their global commitments. Short-term, earmarked and fragmented funding had historically been the cause of operational difficulties. Adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for the resident coordinator system was imperative to ensure the successful repositioning of the United Nations development system. That would help to minimize overlapping programmes and funding and to ensure effective management of limited resources.

139. By means of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams should provide tailored solutions to specific development challenges in line with national needs and priorities. His delegation looked forward to further discussions on the multi-country offices and United Nations regional entities in order to improve their contributions towards achieving the 2030 Agenda at the country and regional levels.

140. South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation was increasingly viable and impactful and had enabled the homegrown solutions and competitive advantages of developing countries to be shared throughout the global South. It was an alternative means of financial support that could be applied to a wide range of development programmes, including to address the peace-development nexus.

141. His country had supported thousands of participants involved in hundreds of programmes in such areas as agriculture, climate change, disaster risk reduction, maternal and child health, infrastructure, the empowerment of women and good governance. Indonesia looked forward to participating actively in the upcoming Global South-South Development Expo in November 2018, where it would showcase its South-South cooperation programmes. Indonesia would also convene the Asia Pacific Director General Forum in October 2018 in conjunction with ESCAP and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. It

also looked forward to working constructively during the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.