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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 10 a.m.

Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/73/455 and A/73/417)

- (a) **Operational activities for development of the United Nations system** (*continued*) (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)
- (b) **South-South cooperation for development** (*continued*) (A/73/311, A/73/311/Add.1, A/73/321, A/73/376 and A/73/383)

1. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that the United Nations development system continued to play a critical role in supporting Member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and should maintain its strong development focus; achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was of critical importance, while upholding the principle of national ownership and leadership over the entire development process. Since there was no one-size-fits-all solution, resident coordinators should work in a flexible and inclusive manner, and national Governments should have full authority over the implementation of United Nations development assistance frameworks (UNDAFs) and configuration of the United Nations country teams. The presence and composition of country teams should be determined in close consultation with the concerned Member States, based on their development priorities and long-term needs, and a geographical balance must be ensured in selecting teams, with priority given to qualified nationals. Resident coordinators' primary line of accountability and reporting should remain at the country level; country teams should continue to report regularly to host Governments through the resident coordinators. Adequate financial resources, including for administrative costs, in particular of the resident coordinator system, remained vital. Member States should continue to be consulted and actively engaged during the implementation phase of the reforms.

2. While South-South cooperation was becoming increasingly vital in bolstering developing countries' productive capacities, enhancing trade and financial flows, improving technological capabilities and boosting economic growth, it was a supplement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. Her Government was extensively engaged in promoting South-South programmes and activities, and provided training, technical support and other resources to many developing countries. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was a large-scale example of such cooperation that would bring far-reaching benefits to the entire region and beyond.

3. **Ms. Sarvestani** (Iran) said that it was important to keep in mind the guidelines and mandates set out in General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations development system. The repositioned United Nations development system must be independent, impartial and based on national ownership, and should ensure predictability, sustainability and transparency. All measures should be taken in full consultation and agreement with national Governments, through open and inclusive dialogue between the host country and the United Nations development system, and in accordance with national development policies tailored to country priorities and needs. Operational activities for development must address poverty eradication as a top priority, as that was key in tackling the challenges facing developing countries. The resident coordinator system must be robust and responsive to host countries' plans, priorities and needs, in line with the UNDAFs. Resident coordinators must interact closely with host Governments in identifying and bridging the gaps between the reality on the ground and the functioning of the United Nations development system. Development was a goal in itself, and was the very essence of the overarching framework of the United Nations operational activities for development.

4. The imbalance between core and non-core resources continued to be of serious concern. Core resources were the bedrock of United Nations operational activities for development. The United Nations development system must move towards a governance architecture that was transparent, accountable and responsive to Member States, and capable of enhancing the coordination, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of those activities within and between all levels in order to facilitate system-wide strategic planning to better support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. South-South cooperation was a significant part of operational activities for development and made a positive contribution to strengthened multilateralism. Over the past two years, Iran had intensified its discussions with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation with a view to streamlining its development cooperation policies with trending processes supported by the United Nations, including South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives. Two such initiatives were a national symposium on advancing economic diplomacy with special emphasis on new and innovative approaches to development cooperation, held in October 2018 in Tehran, and the recently launched Mustafa prize, which was a joint

effort with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and would be awarded biennially to top researchers and scientists from Organization of Islamic Cooperation member States.

6. **Ms. Hamdouni** (Morocco) said that concerted international action and a revitalized multilateral approach were needed to overcome the challenges faced in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. In that respect, her Government fully supported the repositioning of the United Nations development system; to be successful, that process would require reinforcing the principle of national ownership, leadership, transparency and strong accountability in order to help Governments with implementation of the new resident coordinator system. Moreover, a comprehensive approach must be adopted in relation to the ongoing reinvigoration of the resident coordinator system, attaching the same level of priority to the 2030 Agenda, 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, through genuine implementation on the ground. She underscored that each country's development model and specificities should be respected, avoiding a standardized model applying to all. There was also a need to strike a balance between core and non-core sources of funding, which continued to be an important part of the overall resources for the financing of operational activities for development.

7. South-South cooperation was gaining ground, and synergies between South-South and North-South cooperation should be strengthened through triangular cooperation. It was also important for South-South cooperation to be institutionalized in operational activities for development.

8. Joint action based on solidarity and strong partnerships based on mutual interests were needed in order to effectively tackle development-related challenges. In that respect, her Government hoped that South-South cooperation would drive the emergence of a renewed Africa that was confident in its potential and forward-looking. To that end, over a 15-year period, her Government had signed 1,000 cooperation agreements with 28 African countries relating to, inter alia, education, health, training, infrastructure and agriculture. Her Government had recognized expertise in areas including technology transfers, knowledge sharing, establishment of public-private partnerships, training and higher education.

9. **Mr. Luangkhom** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the operational activities of the

United Nations development system must continue to be focused on the development needs of the most vulnerable groups of countries, namely the least developed and landlocked developing countries as well as small island developing States, which needed higher levels of investment in order to ensure that they were not left behind. The development system must be aligned with the 2030 Agenda in order to enable the United Nations to deliver a more effective and accountable response in line with the national needs and priorities of programme countries. Development must remain a top priority of operational activities for development.

10. While there was a need to enhance the capacity of the United Nations development system and reinvigorate the resident coordinator system, the imbalance between core and non-core funding as well as the continuing decline of contributions to core funding gave cause for concern. If that trend persisted, it would adversely affect the performance of development agencies and programmes at the country level. In that context, he called on countries to fulfil their official development assistance (ODA) commitments.

11. South-South cooperation was a collective endeavour based on the principle of solidarity among developing countries; its core was technical cooperation and shared experience and knowledge among countries of the global South. It should be a complement rather than a substitute for North-South cooperation.

12. **Mr. Gayito** (Ethiopia) said that reform of the United Nations development system was not a choice, but a necessity for developing countries, particularly least developed countries, which needed a more robust partnership with the Organization to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. The reform of the United Nations development system should be focused on sustainable development, with particular emphasis on poverty eradication and building long-term development resilience. The reinvigorated resident coordinator system should support Member States in line with national plans and strategies. The reform process should be based on the reinforcement of national ownership and leadership, ensuring country contextual responses rather than a "one size fits all" approach, with country-level delivery as the litmus test for success.

13. Securing sustainable and predictable funding for the new resident coordinator system would be crucial to ensure a smooth transition and avoid any risk of further fragmentation of the United Nations system at the country level. A well-resourced and staffed United Nations country team was also important to support

implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level.

14. His Government hosted one of the largest United Nations country teams in the world, with 28 agencies, and its capital, Addis Ababa, hosted one of the largest United Nations regional presences. A streamlined and coordinated approach at the regional level was pivotal in order to reduce duplication and contribute to a more coherent United Nations presence at the regional level. His delegation stressed the importance of securing sufficient financing for development reform, with meaningful engagement of development partners, as mobilizing sufficient resources and addressing the imbalance between core and non-core resources would remain critical to the successful implementation of the reform agenda. It was also important to reinvigorate South-South cooperation, as a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

15. **Mr. Dorji** (Bhutan) said that Bhutan subscribed to the key principles that should drive the ongoing reforms of the United Nations development system, namely the development focus of that system; resident coordinators' accountability to host Governments; gender parity and geographical balance in selecting resident coordinators; and national ownership and leadership underlying the revitalized UNDAFs, including the United Nations country presence.

16. The repositioning of the United Nations development system and the reinvigorated resident coordinator system would provide much-needed strategic guidance and support to programme countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda. That effort was well timed as it coincided with the start of Bhutan's transition from least developed country status. The five-year transition period until 2023 would allow his Government, with the support of development partners, to undertake all necessary measures to ensure that the graduation process was sustainable and irreversible. His Government would make every effort to ensure that the new status of Bhutan would not trigger a reversal of development gains with the sudden withdrawal of international support measures upon graduation. He hoped that his Government's modest contribution to the voluntary trust fund would encourage others to support the smooth implementation of the resident coordinator system through sufficient funding.

17. **Mr. Gough** (Brazil) said that his delegation welcomed the global meeting that had been held between the Deputy Secretary-General and resident coordinators at United Nations Headquarters the previous week, which had enabled Member States to hear about resident coordinators' ground-level

experiences and their expectations regarding their new mandates, and resident coordinators to learn from Member States about what was expected from them, particularly in terms of their ability to quickly deliver results.

18. His Government underscored that the repositioning of the United Nations development system must be driven by national ownership and leadership, in accordance with national priorities and needs, and the recognition that there could not be a "one size fits all" approach. Resident coordinators must follow those principles in close cooperation with national Governments; the new UNDAFs would be an effective tool to help countries to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals.

19. General Assembly resolution [71/243](#) was a solid foundation and set out key policy orientation for the United Nations development system to better support countries in their efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The new resident coordinator system must be understood within the context of that resolution. While his delegation shared the concerns about funding requirements for that system, it was also deeply concerned about funding for development activities as a whole. In that respect, he recalled that core resources were the system's bedrock, for which non-core resources were a complement, and not a substitute.

20. South-South cooperation was an important modality of development cooperation which must be fostered and supported by the United Nations, in a system-wide approach, with the Office for South-South Cooperation playing a key role. He called for constructive engagement by Member States in the context of the preparatory process for the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, which would be an opportunity to set out a positive and precise narrative on the contribution of South-South cooperation to the 2030 Agenda. Diversity and national leadership were among the strongest assets of that cooperation.

21. **Ms. Luna** (Dominican Republic) said that the focus of the work of the new resident coordinator system should be development and the eradication of poverty, including extreme poverty. Resident coordinators and country teams should work in direct consultation with host country authorities, taking into account the specific needs of the countries concerned, when planning activities on the ground. Furthermore, the renewed regional approach should take into account the intrinsic needs and priorities of each region, since there was no "one size fits all" approach. In that respect, cooperation

at the regional and subregional levels must be improved, and the pivotal role played by regional economic commissions in providing guidance to States on the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda should be recognized. She reiterated her country's support for the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

22. South-South cooperation had a key role to play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and was a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. Under its national development strategy, her Government had drawn up a policy on international development cooperation which envisaged the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation, recognizing her country's potential in the exchange of capacities and experiences with other countries in the South. The modalities of South-South, triangular and North-South cooperation were complementary to national efforts under the national development strategy, which was linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.

23. Her country both coordinated and received cooperation resources. Based on its experience in carrying out triangular cooperation projects, her Government had participated in various initiatives, together with traditional partners such as Germany, Spain, the United States of America and Japan, and as a partner in South-South cooperation with Chile, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Haiti.

24. Her delegation hoped that the repositioned United Nations development system would have the tools to support countries in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda more effectively and efficiently, with transparent, coherent coordination, fully respecting the mandates established under the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

25. **Mr. Cisse** (Guinea) said that South-South cooperation enabled countries to strengthen their autonomy and their economic ties, but was complementary to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. Triangular cooperation also had the potential to provide effective solutions and develop local initiatives adapted to each country's context; transfer of knowledge and experience among countries of the South was making a tangible contribution to improving living standards of the beneficiary populations. In that respect, the ongoing efforts to promote South-South and triangular cooperation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) with a view to improving access to nutritional

food must be stepped up as they greatly contributed to making multi-sectoral cooperation a model in combating extreme poverty.

26. It was in that context that in July 2018 Guinea had presented its voluntary national review on the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, based on its five-year plan 2011–2015, its national economic and social development plan 2016–2020 and its forward-looking vision for 2040. His delegation welcomed the recommendations made in the report of the Secretary-General and hoped that the international community would provide appropriate responses at the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

27. **Ms. Boham** (Ghana) said that United Nations operational activities for development had provided invaluable support to national development efforts for capacity-building and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Her Government welcomed the repositioning of the United Nations development system and the implementation plan for the new reinvigorated resident coordinator system, and hoped that the transition to that new system would be smooth. It supported the enhanced role of the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office, with managerial and oversight functions of the new resident coordinator system under the leadership of an Assistant Secretary-General. In view of the critical role of the operational activities for development segment of the Economic and Social Council in facilitating countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda, she looked forward to the strengthening of that segment in implementation of General Assembly Resolution 68/1.

28. There was a continuing need to involve Member States in setting national development priorities. UNDAFs should therefore continue to be concluded through a multi-stakeholder process and a bottom-up approach. Development projects should be tailored to the needs and priorities of individual countries, while ensuring they were on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

29. Her delegation noted with concern the current imbalance between core and non-core resources at a time of vast development challenges; predictable and regular resources were key to efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda. She urged Member States to consider various sources of funding, including from philanthropic sources, for the United Nations Trust Fund. Her delegation looked forward to the Secretary-General's reports on the review of the functioning of the resident coordinator system,

including its funding arrangements, as mandated by General Assembly resolution [72/279](#).

30. South-South cooperation had immense potential to help developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda, although North-South cooperation was still an important aspect of international cooperation. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation should be strengthened, since its potential to forge partnerships among developing countries could help to promote peace, security and development. Its mandate should not overlap with that of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), but should be aimed at continued coherence and enhanced cooperation with focal points of United Nations entities dedicated to South-South cooperation activities, in line with General Assembly resolution [72/237](#). Her delegation hoped that the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation would enhance that cooperation on the basis of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the Nairobi outcome document of the First High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

31. **Mr. Gnecco Daza** (Colombia) said that South-South and triangular cooperation were a priority of his Government's foreign policy, which was geared towards exchanging high-value technical know-how and experience with developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa. Those efforts also helped to position the country on the multilateral and regional scene, through geographical and thematic diversification of the international agenda, while also contributing to the strengthening of political relations. Colombia's South-South and triangular cooperation were based on the principles of horizontality, solidarity, trust, mutual interest and benefit, and shared costs, thereby contributing to jointly tackling the challenges of development and advancing common interests towards innovative solutions that were adaptable and replicable to participating countries' national contexts. Since 2010, his delegation had been promoting six regional strategies based on South-South cooperation involving cooperation with Africa, Central America, the Caribbean, South-East Asia, and Eurasia, and a cooperation strategy for comprehensive security. As a member of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, Colombia reaffirmed its support for the principle that such cooperation must be a complement to, but not a substitute for North-South cooperation and reiterated the importance of South-South cooperation as a means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that context, he drew attention to the eighth meeting of the presiding officers of the Committee on South-South

cooperation that had been held at ECLAC headquarters in October 2018 and the six agreements that had been reached among the countries of the region.

32. His Government was interested in continuing the efforts launched some years previously on the quantification and assessment of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation through the design and implementation of assessment methodologies and instruments, with a view to enhancing the quality, timeliness and availability of qualitative and quantitative information on that modality of international cooperation.

33. **Ms. Rabohale** (South Africa) said that the international community's efforts towards strengthening the operational activities for development of the United Nations development system should be guided by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and the primordial importance of poverty eradication. Ongoing support to programme countries was needed to help them to meet their development needs and implement the internationally agreed agreements, especially the 2030 Agenda. The Deputy Secretary-General should consider hosting regular meetings with resident coordinators in order to assist with implementation of development programmes at the country level. Regular briefings should also be held on implementation of the proposed funding model, which her delegation hoped would not be prejudicial to programme countries' development needs.

34. It was imperative to focus on better delivery of operational activities for development at the country level. Proper consultation, and respect for countries' policy space, were needed in that regard. Resident coordinators and the United Nations development system must recognize national ownership and leadership at the country level. Moreover, the resident coordinators' role should not be politicized but should retain a strong focus on sustainable development and poverty eradication, in line with national plans, priorities and needs.

35. Her Government continued to prioritize South-South cooperation as an important means to attain the Sustainable Development Goals, but stressed that it was not a substitute for ODA. Such cooperation should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. The United Nations development system, the Secretariat and development partners must recognize and respect developing countries' need to exercise their own right to development and to lead on matters pertaining to

South-South cooperation. The second High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation should be guided by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, including the Nairobi outcome document; any attempt to redefine South-South cooperation would be counterproductive and would further widen the development gap between the global North and South.

36. The United Nations development system needed to continue to support programme countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development in line with their national plans and priorities. Resident coordinators and country teams should work closely with host countries and avoid operating at cross purposes. The United Nations development system should be sensitive to the financial burdens that accrued from programming, particularly if that was factored on the basis of the gross national income per capita of the programme countries.

Agenda item 27: Towards global partnerships
([A/73/186](#), [A/73/186/Add.1](#) and [A/73/326](#))

37. **Ms. Makinwa** (Chief of Intergovernmental Relations and Africa, United Nations Global Compact), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector” ([A/73/326](#)) said that three years into the journey to attain the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations must urgently rise to the challenge of unlocking the full potential of partnerships and alliances to deliver the World We Want. It was widely acknowledged that greater efforts and stronger system-wide coordination were required to achieve that objective, as had been emphasized in the Secretary-General’s report on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet ([A/72/684](#)). It was very encouraging that, throughout the United Nations system, partnership approaches were evolving towards deeper and more strategic collaboration, focusing on innovation, scalability and impact. To sustain and accelerate those positive developments, there was a need to pivot further towards partnerships that more effectively leveraged the resources and expertise of all stakeholders. The United Nations was also seeking to play a stronger catalytic role in sparking a new wave of financing and innovation needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

38. The report provided extensive data and a variety of examples of current partnerships across different regions. It also outlined a number of recommendations for facilitating a stronger system-wide approach to partnerships. It should be borne in mind, however, that partnerships were only one of a complex range of

actions needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and should thus always be considered as a complement to, and not a substitute for, traditional forms of development cooperation, especially ODA. In that regard, partnerships between the United Nations, business and other stakeholders should seek to amplify, accelerate and add value to Member States’ critical sustainable development work. In order to ensure that the United Nations Global Compact was fit for purpose, a thorough governance and integrity review had been conducted over the past year; over half the participants were now from developing countries, and consisted of all kinds of stakeholders, from multinational enterprises to local civil society organizations. It was hoped that the report, and its recommendations, would offer pragmatic and concrete options to drive change by taking partnerships to the next level.

39. **Mr. Dumitriu** (Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)), speaking via video link and introducing the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled “The United Nations system: private sector partnerships arrangements in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” ([A/73/186](#)), said that the aim of the report was to propose ways to improve the existing arrangements for cooperation with the private sector, reflecting the integrative and universal approach of the 2030 Agenda. The changes needed would not be easy to carry out because of objective factors such as the need to revise rules and regulations which had not been conceived to operate in relation to businesses, and subjective factors such as an unwillingness to step out of institutional or personal comfort zones, which would take time and effort to overcome. Nevertheless, the United Nations could not transform the world unless it transformed itself, which would entail concrete and effective changes in the current normative, administrative and operational arrangements. A major objective of the report was to propose system-wide solutions in order to eliminate duplication and waste of financial and human resources; inter-agency interaction, resource-pooling and knowledge sharing were required.

40. The report was also inspired by the need for a gradual shift away from ad-hoc, short-term cooperative efforts focused primarily on resource mobilization towards multiple, long-term, more strategic and stable forms of collaboration with the private sector. In addition to addressing the 28 participating organizations and their governing bodies, the report also aimed to convey key messages to private companies that were already engaged, or willing to engage, in partnerships with the United Nations to promote sustainability in their business models.

41. He cited a number of areas of complementarity between the JIU recommendations and the general direction of the reforms being undertaken by the Secretary-General, highlighting in particular the important recommendation in relation to system-wide efforts in the report of the Secretary-General on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda (A/72/684). The JIU recommendations had been inspired by practitioners at Headquarters and at the field level and by the private sector.

42. A key recommendation in the JIU report was that the General Assembly should consider a review of the Guidelines on a Principle-based Approach to the Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector in the context of the 2030 Agenda, without prejudice to General Assembly resolution 92 (I) of 7 December 1946. The aim was to align the development objectives of the United Nations with the realities of 2018, in the light of the changes since the United Nations' inception in 1945.

43. **Ms. Pietracci** (Senior Programme Management Officer, Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)), introducing the note by the Secretary-General conveying his comments and those of CEB on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The United Nations system: private sector partnerships arrangements in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (A/73/186/Add.1), said that organizations of the United Nations system generally supported the report's findings and recommendations, and had noted that their engagement with the private sector could not be guided by a one-size-fits-all approach, as their specific needs and objectives were guided by different missions and mandates. They had underscored the importance of taking into consideration the specificities of individual organizations and their governing and reporting structures, and invited JIU to be specific in the formulation of future recommendations, particularly when those recommendations were targeting governing bodies of United Nations entities besides the General Assembly, in order to facilitate timely follow-up and related reporting. They had supported recommendation 5 on an enhanced role for the Private Sector Focal Points Network and had partially supported recommendation 6 on the creation of a system-wide database, while drawing attention to the cost implications. With reference to recommendation 8, they had noted that a clearly defined role for Member States within the United Nations Global Compact governance structure had been assured through the creation of a permanent seat on the Global Compact Board.

44. **Mr. Yaakob** (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that greater efforts and a significant scale-up of alliances and partnerships, especially with the private sector, were required to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations system should recognize that ASEAN consisted of countries in special situations, namely, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries, and should develop tailor-made incentives and frameworks in advancing partnerships based on their specific challenges and needs. A revitalized global partnership that facilitated an intensive global engagement was crucial for the 2030 Agenda; ASEAN reaffirmed its support for the central role of the United Nations in coordinating and promoting the 2030 Agenda.

45. Multilateralism remained a global public good to create an enabling environment for sustainable development. The ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action 2016–2020 would continue to be the key instrument for advancing engagement and realizing the goals of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the objective of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. The United Nations was uniquely placed to strengthen international cooperation for promoting development in the context of globalization. The integration of developing countries into the global partnership would enable them to take full advantage of all their potential for economic growth and development. The United Nations must play a fundamental role in promoting and strengthening international cooperation. New areas of cooperation should be identified in advancing the ASEAN-United Nations partnership in order to address transnational security challenges, prevent violent extremism, promote women's empowerment, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and integrate the regional and global community in an increasingly digital world.

46. Trade was a key enabler of the Sustainable Development Goals, and must be supported by deliberate policy actions and global partnership. The first ASEAN economic community dialogue had been held in Jakarta in October 2018. The Initiative for ASEAN Integration aimed to narrow the development gap by providing support to Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam to enhance their capacity to implement regional agreements and accelerate the regional integration process as a whole.

47. While ASEAN continued to prioritize infrastructure spending to sustain growth, private sector participation in the region was just as crucial as public

sector financing for a strong ASEAN economic community. Public-private partnership was therefore an important tool for decision-makers to strengthen economic and social development. Development partnerships with the private sector should fully comply with countries' development priorities, as outlined in the ASEAN corporate social responsibility network.

48. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that CELAC welcomed the contribution of all relevant partners, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations, academia and civil society, to the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and highlighted the central role of public policies at the global, regional, national and local levels. Multi-stakeholder partnerships could help to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, complementing Government efforts and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in developing countries. Governments played a vital role in promoting responsible business practices and supporting United Nations efforts to engage with the private sector.

49. CELAC member States strongly supported the reinvigoration of the global partnership for development with the contribution of all countries on the basis of their financial and technology capabilities as well as knowledge transfer through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, building on the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and other relevant outcomes, which integrated all the development agenda issues in a holistic and balanced manner.

50. CELAC recognized the private sector's vital role in development, through various partnership models and by generating employment and investment, promoting access to and developing new technologies, offering vocational training, and stimulating sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, with due consideration for non-discrimination, gender equality and women's empowerment and fully complying with the principle of national ownership of development strategies.

51. In partnerships involving the United Nations, a responsible approach should be adopted, especially with regard to participation of the private sector,

philanthropic entities and civil society, giving due consideration to such aspects as transparency, coherence, ownership, intergovernmental oversight by Member States, impact, monitoring and accountability. The United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes should continue to actively engage with other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and foundations, with a view to diversifying potential sources of funding, especially core funding, for operational activities for development, in alignment with the core principles of the United Nations development system and fully respecting the national priorities of programme countries. The new forms of interaction between Governments, academia and the productive sector were significant in fostering the development of science, innovation and technology and its transfer and diffusion on preferential and concessional terms. Coordinated efforts of both private and public partners should be pursued with a view to expediting inclusive, strong and sustainable development in all areas of the economy, in accordance with national needs and priorities.

52. In the context of the Paris Agreement, CELAC welcomed the efforts of non-Party stakeholders to respond to climate change, including efforts by civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other subnational authorities, and called on them to scale up efforts and support actions to reduce emissions, build resilience and decrease vulnerabilities to the adverse effects of climate change.

53. **Ms. Zahir** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that although partnerships held significant potential to help advance the achievement of sustainable development and were important in mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, the international community and other relevant stakeholders must do more to scale up those efforts and ensure that they achieved positive impacts. Partnerships served as a complement to, but not a replacement for, ODA, which must remain the core mechanism for development funding.

54. The Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) prioritized partnerships as a means of implementation, through its Partnership Framework and SIDS Action Platform website, and through its Partnership Steering Committee which monitored partnerships, identified new opportunities and ensured full implementation of commitments. The report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to and implementation of the SAMOA Pathway (A/73/226) had identified wide-ranging challenges, gaps and potential obstacles associated with

inadequate financial viability, the adverse effects of political and policy nuances, the impacts of climate change and financial debt burdens. The report's recommendations on increased community involvement, greater youth engagement, knowledge transfer, and sustainable energy projects could help to make further progress, but would not necessarily overcome the core financial setbacks. AOSIS therefore urged continued support for partnership initiatives, including through new partnerships, with close engagement to ensure that they could make tangible improvements on the ground, as mandated by the 2030 Agenda.

55. *Mr. Braquetti (Monaco), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

56. **Mr. Lorentz** (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the resources, ingenuity and creativity of the private sector, civil society, the scientific community, academia and local authorities were indispensable as a complement to Government efforts for the timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Partnerships could and should leverage public and private money, unlocking new financial flows and helping to channel private funding into the investment needed for achievement of the Goals. However, those efforts should also extend beyond financial resources to the leveraging of knowledge and technology, employing the creativity and innovative force of the private sector and societies more broadly to address sustainable development challenges. Bringing together all financial and non-financial resources, different actors, innovation, knowledge and technology in a holistic way would also help to make the most of public resources to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path, economically, socially and environmentally, taking into account the global impacts of national actions.

57. Greater attention should be paid to strategic, innovation-based multi-stakeholder partnerships, which, although they were growing, were still largely underutilized; in that regard, the capabilities of the United Nations and its agencies and programmes as facilitators of such partnerships at the global, regional and country levels must be further strengthened. Partnerships could only be meaningful if they adhered to the principles and values of the United Nations. Responsible business practices as advocated by the United Nations Global Compact were key to achieving the 2030 Agenda, including the protection of labour rights, observance of international environmental and health standards, and adherence to international human rights standards.

58. Results-oriented partnerships should be consistent with national development strategies and priorities and in line with national legal and regulatory frameworks. It was important to address issues of transparency and accountability, not least to safeguard the integrity of the United Nations. Even greater emphasis should be placed on a coherent approach throughout the United Nations system, while leaving sufficient flexibility for adjustment to the varied mandates of United Nations agencies and programmes.

59. **Mr. Shumsky** (Belarus) said that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda would require concerted efforts, partnership and closer cooperation between States, business, the private sector and non-commercial organizations, at the national, regional and international levels. His delegation was pleased that, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/73/326), partnership relations were evolving into a more strategic form of cooperation; however, the report also demonstrated that there was still a strong tendency to view the private sector only in terms of business and a source of additional donor resources, rather than as a full-fledged partner. That attitude must be firmly resisted, and new forms of cooperation and interaction should be sought. The Sustainable Development Goals offered significant prospects for the private sector in terms of business growth and development, and new opportunities for initiatives and innovations; States should create the necessary infrastructure and environment for that purpose, and the involvement of agencies of the United Nations system would reinforce the value of their contribution to the overall process.

60. Belarus had a well-developed system for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; under the leadership of a national coordinator, an open-ended partnership group for sustainable development had been established, consisting of representatives of public associations, international organizations, the scientific sector and, of course, business. In early 2019 a national assembly on sustainable development would be held at which, with the participation of all stakeholders, including the private sector, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would be considered, including existing bottlenecks and new growth areas.

61. His delegation hoped that the new system of resident coordinators and country teams would more actively facilitate system-wide partnership links and the development of joint projects for achievement of the Goals. It had therefore put forward an initiative for the establishment of a partnership network of national sustainable development coordinators and hoped that the high-level political forum on sustainable

development would promote that launching of that initiative.

62. **Ms. Al-Baker** (Qatar) said that the 2030 Agenda paid special attention to global partnerships, and the United Nations had a special role to play in promoting such partnerships. Qatar's National Vision 2030 and its National Development Strategy 2018–2022 both stressed the importance of global partnerships for development. Mindful that South-South cooperation could be a major factor for development, her country provided direct assistance to developing countries, in addition to ODA. It had hosted a number of international conferences to promote development partnerships. Qatar had discussed some of the contributions it was making to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 17 on global partnerships for sustainable development when it presented its voluntary national review to the high level political forum on sustainable development. International partnerships that took into account various countries' differing situations and respected national priorities had great potential for advancing development.

63. **Mr. Wuttiwong** (Thailand) said that new partnerships should be continuously sought between and among countries and other stakeholders at all levels with a view to accelerating the pace and progress of efforts towards implementing the 2030 Agenda; existing partnerships should be scaled up in terms of scope and impact.

64. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendations to enable United Nations agencies to unlock the full potential of partnerships with relevant stakeholders and fully supported the work of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies and actions in line with its Ten Principles and the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, the Global Compact Local Networks played an instrumental role. Local Network Thailand, for its part, had actively provided training and shared best practices and lessons learned, including on business and human rights, and would welcome more engagement and the inclusion of micro, small and medium enterprises. His delegation strongly believed that genuine advancement towards the Sustainable Development Goals required more robust supply chain implementation on the part of the private sector. Collaboration and coordination between Global Compact Local Networks and the United Nations system at the country level should be strengthened and, in the context of the ongoing repositioning of the United Nations development system, resident coordinators and UNGC local networks, as well as the business community, needed to do more to advance the Goals.

65. At the global level, his delegation welcomed efforts by UNGC, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and Department of Economic and Social Affairs to coordinate their work and promote and implement partnerships between the Organization and other stakeholders, as that was crucial to enhance impacts and coherence, and avoid fragmentation. The private sector should enhance its participation and contribution in relevant United Nations forums, including the high-level political forum, the Global Compact Leaders Summit and the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva. As the host of the eighth Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) summit in June 2018, Thailand had invited the private sector to contribute to the first five-year master plan to enhance the subregion's connectivity and integration into the global supply chain.

66. Revitalized and scaled-up partnerships between and among countries towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda should follow a demand-driven approach and aim to build countries' strengths. In addition to traditional North-South cooperation, his Government strongly supported South-South and triangular cooperation, which helped countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfil the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. Thailand had shared its national approach to sustainable development based on its sufficiency economy philosophy with partners around the world, and was keen to work with additional interested parties.

67. The Economic and Social Council played a key role in promoting and strengthening global partnerships for sustainable development. In that regard, mechanisms such as its Development Cooperation Forum and Partnership Forum should be further leveraged and utilized with a view to providing more relevant and meaningful results.

68. **Mr. Cardona** (Ecuador) said that an executive decree signed on 19 April 2018 had made the 2030 Agenda part of his Government's public policy, in alignment with its national planning and development. The decree would be implemented through the national development plan for the period 2017–2021, which included innovative elements to guarantee people's rights throughout their lifecycle. Wide-ranging, democratic participation in the design, follow-up and evaluation of public policies was an innovative element for sustainable development at the national level as well as for transparency in public management. For example, his Government's voluntary report to the 2018 high-level political forum had included input from the private sector, academia, civil society and local

authorities, in a spirit of shared responsibility and collective participation in promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and combating inequalities and discrimination.

69. The work of global cooperative partnerships transcended national endeavours; his Government reaffirmed its support for ongoing dialogue and multilateralism, as well as reciprocity as a guiding principle, and listening carefully to those who were experiencing complex situations so that common solutions could be found.

70. Sustainable development efforts should take account of entrepreneurship, as it generated production, prosperity, employment, well-being, self-esteem, and freedom. The participation of young people was vital, as was support from the private sector, which, at the global level, could play an active role in global efforts to achieve inclusion, peace and prosperity. To that end, in June 2018, Ecuador had signed more than 100 investment agreements with private companies in 13 production sectors, with a view to attracting more than \$9 billion in investments and creating jobs in a context of legal security, predictability and tax incentives. It also had a programme in place to motivate and empower young people, improve their skills and provide them with greater opportunities.

71. The finding of JIU in its report (JIU/REP/2017/8) that the private sector still needed information about and understanding of the nature and the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals was a concern that the United Nations system and countries needed to address.

72. **Mr. Pavan Lopes** (Brazil) said that partnerships were key in Brazil's approach towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as evidenced through its Global Compact local network, which was the third largest in the world, comprising more than 750 associates, and had provided training to almost 22,000 people, helping to raise awareness and commitment to sustainable development principles.

73. Partnerships needed to be based on appropriate policies, regulations and incentives, and would be crucial in bridging the existing financing gap in achieving the 2030 Agenda. While Governments had the primary responsibility in financing for development, the Sustainable Development Goals would not be achieved without the active involvement of private sector partners. In 2017, Brazil had launched its pioneering national strategy for impact investment, the result of a close partnership with more than 60 relevant sectors of Government, the private sector, the scientific and academic community and civil society. His delegation

welcomed the initiatives mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, particularly the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative. For its part, Brazil was working closely with the Global Compact in order to bring together the private and financial sectors with Governments in order to explore sustainable finance instruments.

74. The increase in the number of partnerships in United Nations entities must be matched by equivalent efforts to adopt concrete governance mechanisms and policies to manage risk. In that respect, the Global Compact principles provided a good starting point. In Brazil, some state enterprises had made it mandatory for clients to adhere to those principles. The United Nations should lead by example in that context; further alignment with the Global Compact principles would send a strong and consistent message on the importance of responsible business practices, corporate sustainability and public transparency. It was also necessary to strengthen due diligence support functions to avoid United Nations engagement with corporations that had dubious records of respect for human rights, labour and environmental standards, or the promotion of gender equality.

75. Governance structures were needed to align private funding with the international consensus on sustainable development; insufficient reporting and accountability left Member States with an incomplete assessment of results. The consistent trend of increased financing of United Nations activities by voluntary and private contributions was a source of concern in the context of implementation of the Organization's mandates. Core resources were the bedrock of United Nations operational activities for development, and non-core resources, although important, were a complement to, but not a substitute for, core resources. His delegation hoped that negotiations on the agenda item would recognize the need for improved transparency, accountability and Member State governance in relation to partnerships involving the United Nations, and provide clarity on how to further address those concerns.

76. **Ms. Jean** (Republic of Korea) said that although United Nations' efforts to build bridges among countries and stakeholders were advancing and new multi-stakeholder initiatives were emerging, progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals needed to be accelerated. In that regard, partnerships could be further bolstered by increasing collective efforts to take full advantage of existing initiatives within the United Nations system, such as through enhanced cooperation with the United Nations Office for Partnerships, the United Nations Global Compact

and its local networks, and the United Nations Academic Impact, and making use of existing forums such as the Economic and Social Council's Partnerships Forum and United Nations Private Sector Forum. Further, the Organization needed to scale up ongoing efforts to first transform itself in order to transform the world, and redouble its efforts to break silos and create synergies among its entities in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals more efficiently and effectively. In that regard, her delegation hoped that the recent appointment of an Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships would help that Office to serve as a hub for partnerships within the United Nations and between the Organization and civil society.

77. The United Nations should expand its efforts to leverage growing private sector interest in sustainable development. Business partners valued the United Nations for a variety of reasons, but many of them still found it a challenging partner to work with. In order to secure the trillions of dollars of investment needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations should endeavour to streamline its approach to external engagement and facilitate cooperation with the private sector.

78. Her country, based on its own experience of achieving economic and social development through partnership, had actively advocated for multi-stakeholder partnership and would continue to share its experience with the international community and actively contribute to unlocking the potential of the private sector and civil society as integral partners for sustainable development.

79. **Ms. Koubodena** (Togo) said that her Government welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to reform the United Nations development system and bolster multi-stakeholder partnerships. Such partnerships were essential for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, skills, techniques and financial resources towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, especially developing countries, under an inclusive and multipartite process, with the aim of building sustainable and resilient societies. The private sector was an essential development partner and facilitator in achieving the Goals. It could create jobs, promote innovative solutions, improve skills on the basis of new technologies and resolve problems related to energy and infrastructure.

80. Her Government was aware of the need to seek and build innovative partnerships with the private sector and civil society. Its new national development plan focused in particular on enhancing the business environment through a range of major reforms that supported the

private sector as a key driver of development. It aimed to work with the private sector to promote hubs for the transformation of agriculture and of manufacturing and extractive industries that could create jobs and wealth. Ongoing dialogue on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals had been established between the Government and the private sector. On that very day, her Government had hosted a second national civil society forum on the Sustainable Development Goals with a view to addressing the Goals at the local level, instilling a sense of ownership in the process and promoting a paradigm shift among grassroots level stakeholders. Referring to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, she called for greater mobilization in support of international cooperation based on strengthened public-private partnership.

81. **Mr. Victor** (Nigeria) said that the importance of scaling up alliances and partnerships, particularly with the private sector, could not be overemphasized. The private sector played a vital role in development. Socially responsible private sector partnerships were a major driver of inclusive growth and job creation, stimulating and sustaining equitable economic growth. Despite the importance of ODA, especially for developing countries, strategic partnerships with the private sector could also facilitate financing for development.

82. His Government had benefited from constructive partnerships with the private sector, civil society and Member States, and accorded them priority. Such partnerships should produce mutually beneficial results while embracing the principle of national ownership of development strategies and processes. It had recently established a private sector advisory group on the Sustainable Development Goals, and hoped that the private sector, besides contributing to resource mobilization in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, would also assist in setting sustainability standards in business operations.

83. His delegation agreed that stronger system-wide coordination was needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda; in particular, greater efforts were required to unlock new financial flows, especially from mainstream institutional investors. For most developing countries such as Nigeria, recovery of assets of illicit origin was a successful deterrent in combating that scourge and helping States to finance their development priorities. Stronger global partnerships therefore needed to be forged to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on returning assets from safe havens. His delegation called for greater collaboration at all levels in providing mutual legal assistance in the investigation and prosecution of crimes related to the proceeds of

illicit assets. Within the context of financing for development, such assistance must be flexible in relation to domestic law.

84. Recognizing the finance initiatives of the Global Compact and the United Nations Environment Programme and their principles for responsible investment, his delegation underscored the importance of developing policies and strengthening regulatory frameworks to better align private sector initiatives with public goals. In that regard, it welcomed the vital role already being played by some Member States in promoting responsible business practices, and called on the private sector to apply its creativity and innovation to solving sustainable development challenges with absolute respect for labour and consumer rights and environmental and health standards, among other relevant internationally agreed standards.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.