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Special meeting on “The response to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe”

Summary record of the 8th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 2 April 2019, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Opening of the special meeting

1. **The President** said that Cyclone Idai, which had made landfall in Southern Africa on 14 March 2019, had left more than 700 people dead, 100,000 homes destroyed, thousands of schools and dozens of health facilities inoperable and almost half a million hectares of harvest-ready crops destroyed. The special meeting of the Council had been convened to discuss support for the relief efforts in the three affected countries, Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. In total, \$394.2 million would be needed for the humanitarian response in the coming three months.

2. The scale of destruction left by Cyclone Idai was such that recovery would require significant funding in the longer term. Options, including concessional finance, debt relief and other forms of development cooperation, would need to be considered to help the three countries to rebound. The international community must increase investment in disaster risk reduction and do more to harmonize humanitarian, development and climate action.

3. *A video on the situation in the affected countries was screened.*

4. **Ms. Mohammed** (Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations) said that it had been almost three weeks since Cyclone Idai had first struck and the needs of the three affected countries, Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, remained profound. Risks persisted that floods would increase, disease would spread and more lives would be lost. Many areas were now affected by cholera outbreaks: the current tally of over 1,000 cases was expected to grow. The storm had flattened thousands of homes and had flooded acres upon acres of farm land, displacing more than 200,000 people.

5. Paying tribute to the local, national and international responders who had been on the scene from the earliest moments of the crisis, saving countless lives and preventing and even more devastating outcome, she said that the United Nations had also been on the ground from day one, had supported the initial search and rescue efforts and was still providing life-saving assistance. For example, the World Food Programme (WFP) was providing high-energy, fortified food products and supporting efforts to assess damage in affected areas; the United Nations Children's Fund was working with the Government of Mozambique and its partners to restore drinking water systems across affected parts of the country; and the World Health Organization was distributing cholera vaccines and supporting the establishment of treatment centres.

6. While the Central Emergency Response Fund had immediately disbursed \$20 million for initial operations, the response remained underfunded and there was still a need to expand the response to rural areas and communities. The three affected countries would need over \$300 million over the next three months yet only \$46 million had been recorded on the financial tracking system. She called on Member States to bridge that gap as a matter of urgency.

7. Beyond the emergency phase, it was important to look toward rebuilding and preventing future such disasters. Sustained support was needed that helped the people and their Governments to cope with the longer-term development consequences of the storm. Such calamities could erase years of hard-won progress in an instant.

8. While it was impossible to link any single weather event to climate change, such extreme storms were consistent with the forecasts of scientists about the impacts of global warming and recent events were driving home the existence of a new norm from which no country was immune. Only the previous week the World Meteorological Organization had reported that the impacts of climate change continued to gather speed and that no region had been immune to devastating natural disasters in 2018.

9. The international community should therefore respond quickly and generously to the appeal for aid for the affected countries; support long-term reconstruction efforts; do more to build resilience to climate, economic and other shocks; and intensify efforts to mitigate the impact of and adapt to climate change. Member States would have an unprecedented opportunity to present specific plans in that regard at the Climate Action Summit of the Secretary-General, to be held in New York on 23 September 2019.

10. **Mr. Lowcock** (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator) said that United Nations response efforts were being led by the Governments of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. In Mozambique, more than 600 people were known to have died as a result of the cyclone and more than 100,000 homes had been destroyed; 141,000 people had sought shelter in 161 sites in the affected areas. In addition to cholera, the spread of malaria posed an increasing health threat. There was an urgent need for agricultural assistance to salvage some of the harvest in the coming weeks.

11. In Zimbabwe, an estimated 5 million people had already been in need of humanitarian assistance prior to the cyclone owing to drought and an ongoing economic crisis. A further 270,000 people now also needed aid.

The Government of Zimbabwe had allocated \$30 million to address the disaster and the United Nations had set up a system of clusters on the ground to support its efforts. In Malawi, 900,000 people had been affected by the cyclone and much of what had promised to be a bumper harvest had been lost. Of the more than \$45 million required under the Government's flood response plan, only \$17 million had been pledged so far.

12. Only \$46 million in pledges of the more than \$394 million needed had been registered with the financial tracking service. It was known that some Member States had already pledged more and it would facilitate the coordination of relief efforts if they were to update information provided to the service. Failure to fill the funding gap would lead to further loss of life.

13. **Mr. Beasley** (Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP)), speaking via video link, said that Cyclone Idai was thought to be the worst tropical storm to hit the area in 200 years. Initial relief efforts in the port city of Beira, Mozambique, had been hampered by the widespread destruction of infrastructure. Whole villages had disappeared under 10-metre-deep floodwaters and people had been competing with wild animals in a desperate scramble for high ground; WFP helicopters had been used in rescue operations in the early days of the crisis. The loss of electrical power posed a threat to clean water supplies and sanitation and the devastation of crops augured ill for food security in 2019. WFP was providing food to more than 400,000 people in Mozambique and had deployed around 100 engineers and other infrastructure specialists. It had disbursed \$44 million from its emergency funds, which it hoped to recoup from donors; of the \$60 million pledged by the latter so far, only \$10 million had been made available. The Government of Mozambique had given assurances that all affected areas would be treated equitably, regardless of political affiliation. It would be crucial to build more resilient housing and infrastructure in the wake of the cyclone, which was unlikely to be the last.

14. **Mr. Ligoya** (Malawi) said that heavy rains had started in his country on 5 March 2019. Six days later, a state of emergency had been declared in the affected areas. The African Union and member countries of the Southern African Development Community had sent teams to assess the damage in the three affected countries. To date, 60 people had died, 672 had been injured and more than 86,000 had been displaced in Malawi. Infrastructure had been heavily damaged. Crops had been swept away and food aid would be needed over the longer term; commodity prices had already risen by nearly 50 per cent. Many people had been left without access to primary care. The supply of

critical medication for HIV and tuberculosis patients had been disrupted. Makeshift camps and schools being used to house the displaced were overcrowded and lacked basic services, including clean water and sanitation. The poor conditions were likely to fuel the spread of cholera, malaria and other communicable diseases and encourage gender-based violence. Women and girls in search of water were exposed to a heightened risk of rape and violence.

15. Food insecurity in his country had been exacerbated by the disaster. Further food and humanitarian aid was needed, particularly in areas made inaccessible by flooding that had yet to receive any assistance. Any attempt to replant crops now would require the urgent delivery of feed and fertilizers. However, flood-stricken communities would need to be supported in a way that did not make them dependent on aid. The objectives of his country's flood response plan in the coming three months included the resumption of basic services, the relocation of displaced people to alternative sites and the prevention of secondary health disasters while meeting the nutrition requirements of the most vulnerable. The \$28 million shortfall in funding for the plan must be met urgently. His Government would also welcome damage assessment teams from United Nations agencies.

16. In the longer term, it was essential for Malawi and Zimbabwe that the port of Beira resume operations. Early warning systems must be improved using the latest technology. Africa could learn much from the experiences of Asian countries in dealing with extreme weather events and the United Nations family could help to assess the impact of the disaster on the capacity of the affected countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It would be insensitive for creditors to expect those countries to honour all the debt repayments scheduled for the coming period.

17. **Mr. Gumende** (Observer for Mozambique) said that on 12 March 2019 his Government had activated a red alert, sought to relocate 300,000 people from high-risk areas and deployed rescue personnel. The force of Cyclone Idai had, however, been overwhelming. Of the five affected provinces in his country, Sofala and Manica had borne the brunt of the tropical storm and subsequent flooding. Of the 1.8 million people affected by the disaster, around 1 million had been left homeless and without the means of survival. More than 715,000 hectares of crops had been flooded. Schools, health-care centres and other infrastructure had been damaged. Some 90 per cent of infrastructure in Beira, which had been at the epicentre of the cyclone, had been damaged.

18. Rescue activities had now ceased and people directly affected had found shelter in emergency centres. In the coming months, his country would need help to provide food, health care, shelter, clean water and basic sanitation. Cholera treatment centres must be established and people at risk vaccinated. Essential services must be restored and land identified for resettlement. The pattern of extreme weather events in Mozambique since it had gained independence in 1975 demonstrated his country's vulnerability to climate change.

19. **Mr. Shava** (Observer for Zimbabwe) said that the disaster had given rise to a heartening example of South-South cooperation; other African countries had led the way in sending first responders to the three affected countries. In Zimbabwe, 239 people had been confirmed dead to date and sniffer-dog teams from South Africa were still searching for bodies. Some might never be found, as they had been caught in crocodile and hippopotamus-infested floodwaters. A key lesson to be learned was the need to improve disaster preparedness at the local level. Aside from immediate humanitarian needs, schooling for children must be resumed, if necessary in tents. The spread of cholera and malaria in the coming months was inevitable but everything possible must be done to contain such diseases. Psychological support would also be needed by people left traumatized by the disaster. Priorities under his Government's plan to deal with its aftermath included the recovery and burial of bodies to avoid the spread of disease, the provision of food aid, clean water and sanitation and the restoration of communications.

20. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco), speaking in his national capacity, said that humanitarian and development actors would need to coordinate post-disaster efforts with a view to ensuring sustainable development and reconstruction. His country had sent 50 tons of emergency aid to the affected countries, including tents, blankets and essential foodstuffs. The tragedy of Cyclone Idai underscored the need for strengthened resolve to implement the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The long-term impact of the disaster should be taken into account when the voluntary national reviews of the affected countries on their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were submitted for consideration. Improving early warning systems and resilience in those countries would be key to leaving them better prepared for future natural disasters.

21. Speaking as the Vice-President of the Council, responsible for the humanitarian affairs segment, he said that a panel discussion on the readiness of countries to

deal with the challenges and risks associated with climate change and extreme weather events would be held in May 2019 during the Council's humanitarian affairs segment. He intended to visit the affected countries beforehand in order to keep the disaster in the public eye, assess the scale of the damage and establish what was required to ensure that those countries were left better prepared for such events in the future.

22. **Mr. Steiner** (Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) said that UNDP was working alongside the rescue and humanitarian responders to prepare for cooperative efforts with the Governments of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and the international community in the recovery phase. It had made available \$1.75 million for socioeconomic assessments in those countries and was, in partnership with the World Bank and the European Union, preparing a post-disaster needs assessment. Capacity-building support and lessons learned from previous disasters must be woven into the recovery and resilience-building response. Although it was impossible to prepare fully for such disasters, more could be done to reduce their impact and better protect people; disaster risk reduction was thus a key priority for UNDP. In addition to improving early warning systems and risk governance, including at the subnational level, there was also a need to bolster community preparedness.

23. In Mozambique, UNDP was supporting the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation components in planning and budget provisions for key sectors such as agriculture, education, health, infrastructure and energy. In Zimbabwe, UNDP and its partners were putting a resilience building fund into place to provide an evidence base for policymaking. In Malawi, UNDP was working with the Green Climate Fund to provide accurate weather forecasts and extend community-based early warning systems to three quarters of that country's districts, representing 2 million people.

Interactive dialogue

24. **Ms. Rugwabiza** (Observer for Rwanda), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the African Union had contributed \$350,000 to relief efforts and dispatched a high-level assessment team to the affected countries as part of its initial response to the disaster. Thousands of hectares of crops had been lost and food aid must be distributed as a matter of urgency. Support was needed to get children back to school without delay. The risk of the spread of communicable diseases had been heightened by the accumulation of stagnant flood waters and overcrowding. Ensuring access to drinking water and essential health services for

the affected communities was thus a priority. Mitigating the impact of climate change was a global responsibility and the approach to building international cooperation, resilience and disaster preparedness must be reviewed. The links between development, climate change and security needed to be better understood.

25. **Mr. Christiane** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union had mobilized €3.5 million as part of its initial emergency response; five humanitarian affairs experts and one information and communications technology (ICT) expert were assessing the situation on the ground. The European Union was supporting the efforts of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The European Union Civil Protection Mechanism had been activated and civil protection personnel had been deployed to the cities of Beira and Maputo in Mozambique to coordinate aid distribution with the local authorities. A hydrology expert was working with the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team in Beira. Nine States members of the European Union had offered to send teams with specialized equipment to the affected countries. The Copernicus Emergency Management Service had so far produced 60 maps for those countries. Further needs were being assessed.

26. **Ms. Coye-Felson** (Observer for Belize), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that rebuilding in the affected countries, which already faced significant development challenges, would be a Herculean task. The international community must continue to support the development of early warning systems. The focus should shift from disaster management to disaster risk mitigation.

27. **Mr. Fialho Rocha** (Observer for Cabo Verde), speaking on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, said that the President of Cabo Verde, as Chair of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, would soon visit Mozambique and the wider region affected by Cyclone Idai. His country had mobilized \$200,000 to assist the affected countries and civil society was being encouraged to raise more in private donations.

28. **Ms. Byrne Nason** (Ireland) said that her country had so far contributed €1.15 million to assist the three affected countries. Ireland was a donor to the Central Emergency Response Fund and would consider every possible avenue for further support.

29. **Mr. Duarte Lopes** (Observer for Portugal) said that the focus now should be on preventing epidemics in the affected countries. Portugal was providing support bilaterally and through the United Nations, the

European Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. It had deployed an immediate reaction force to Mozambique, made up of military personnel, gendarmes, firefighters, medical personnel, engineers, canine response teams, forensic experts and a mobile water treatment unit. His country was also working with non-governmental organizations and private actors on the ground.

30. **Mr. Kawamura** (Japan) said that his Government had sent relief material, including tents and blankets, to Malawi and Zimbabwe and disaster relief and medical teams to Mozambique. It would continue to work with African countries to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters. His Government also wished to lead discussions on building resilience, using lessons learned currently in Southern Africa and previously in Japan.

31. **Ms. Juul** (Norway) said that the gap between humanitarian and development assistance needed to be closed; cash-based assistance could help recipients to choose what they most needed. Her country was increasing its humanitarian aid to the affected region to \$5.2 million, more than \$2 million of which would be channelled through the Central Emergency Response Fund. Alongside shelter, food and medical assistance, her country would prioritize the prevention of sexual violence and the provision of medical and psychosocial support to victims.

32. **Mr. Blanchard** (Canada) said that his country had put together a two-stage, \$8 million relief package. The first stage had been focused on water, sanitation, shelter and other in-kind material. The second stage would be focused on health and food security for those most in need. His Government would also match private donations up to a total of an additional \$2 million. There was a need to invest more in preparedness for and not just the response to natural disasters.

33. **Mr. Gertze** (Observer for Namibia), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community, expressed thanks to the international community for assistance provided to the affected region thus far, urged it to intensify its collective response and called for improved early warning systems and the stockpiling of relief supplies.

34. **Ms. White** (United States of America) said that on 20 March her Government had sent an elite team from the Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance to Mozambique. It had also deployed aircraft to deliver supplies to remote areas and was providing technical assistance to address the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera. Experts had also been sent to Zimbabwe and would soon arrive in Malawi to assess needs. Her Government had already allocated \$7.3 million to assist

the three countries and significantly more aid would be forthcoming. The protection of vulnerable people should be at the forefront of relief efforts. The mid- and long-term response required effective coordination.

35. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that his country had donated \$14.5 million to the Central Emergency Response Fund over the previous seven years. The immediate priority in Mozambique was to provide people with food, drinking water and medical assistance. A Russian firm had already distributed more than 500 litres of bottled water. His Government was considering the provision of financial, medical and food assistance to Mozambique bilaterally and through WFP and the World Health Organization.

36. **Mr. Kickert** (Observer for Austria) said that his country was focusing bilateral aid on Sofala Province, in Mozambique, which had been hit especially hard by the cyclone. His Government had released €500,000 in emergency assistance and would contribute €5 million in development aid for specific projects in Mozambique. A further €1 million had so far been raised in a public radio appeal in Austria for the three countries.

37. **Mr. Won Doyeon** (Republic of Korea) said that his Government had provided \$500,000 in humanitarian assistance. His country stood ready to assist in recovery efforts, which would require significant investment.

38. **Ms. Ferreira** (Angola) said that her country had dispatched aircraft and personnel to Mozambique. All three countries affected by the disaster would need help to rebuild infrastructure and medical and psychosocial assistance in the medium and long term.

39. **Mr. de Souza Monteiro** (Brazil) said that his country had sent two aircraft with 20 tons of supplies and search and rescue teams and equipment to Mozambique. It had also contributed an initial €100,000 in emergency aid to that country. His Government had provided Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe with high-quality satellite maps and was considering the dispatch of engineers and medical teams to the affected areas.

40. **Mr. Roscoe** (United Kingdom) said that advance warning of the cyclone had made it possible to pre-position vital supplies in the region. His country had since mobilized \$28 million in aid and had provided supplies and technical assistance. The aid would help to feed 400,000 people in Mozambique, shelter 65,000 displaced persons in Malawi and deliver medical supplies and hygiene kits to the worst affected areas of Zimbabwe. The international response would need to be stepped up in order to contain waterborne diseases and rebuild schools and hospitals.

41. **Mr. Hawke** (Observer for New Zealand) said that his Government would contribute \$500,000 in aid immediately.

42. **Mr. Ten-Pow** (Observer for Guyana) said that vulnerability to natural disasters was linked to poverty; precarious housing, for example, left the poor especially exposed. His country was setting aside vast tracts of forest to trap carbon dioxide and thereby contribute to slowing the process of global warming.

43. **Ms. Schoulgin Nyoni** (Observer for Sweden) said that the flexible funding model of the Central Emergency Response Fund allowed it to react swiftly to disasters such as that unleashed by Cyclone Idai. In addition to its support for United Nations agencies operating in the affected countries, her Government had seconded ICT and logistics experts to the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team and contributed an ICT module to the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism. Strengthening resilience to the impact of climate change was a key component of her country's bilateral development programme in Mozambique.

44. **Mr. Issetov** (Observer for Kazakhstan) said that his country had been involved in joint climate change mitigation projects with the African Union and the United Nations in African countries. In 2016, it had joined other Central Asian countries to establish a centre for emergencies and disaster risk reduction in Almaty, Kazakhstan. His Government stood ready to share its experience in that regard with countries in Africa.

45. **Ms. Luo Jin** (China) said that her Government had acted swiftly to send emergency cash aid to all three affected countries and a 65-member rescue team with 20 tons of equipment to Mozambique. Chinese non-profit organizations had also sent a medical team to Mozambique. The Red Cross Society of China and Chinese firms operating in the affected countries were raising money to support the relief efforts of their Governments. China stood ready to assist with post-disaster reconstruction work.

46. **Mr. Cerutti** (Observer for Switzerland) said that his country had contributed \$2 million to relief efforts, dispatched 15 hydrology and logistics experts to the affected region and sent 20 tons of material aid to build temporary housing and provide drinking water. Switzerland would continue to support all three countries, in particular with regard to adaptation to climate change. The sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which would be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 13 to 17 May 2019, would provide a singular opportunity to examine issues related to resilience.

47. **Mr. Prongthura** (Observer for Thailand) said that his country, which was a donor to the Central Emergency Response Fund, was distributing medical supplies in affected areas.
48. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Mexico) said that his country would monitor events through the United Nations and consider potential areas of cooperation.
49. **Ms. Manav** (Turkey) said that climate change, urbanization and population growth were intensifying the impact of natural disasters. Representatives of the Turkish Red Crescent Society and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency were working in areas affected by the cyclone. A military aircraft carrying personnel had landed in Mozambique on 23 March; 17 tons of food aid and other supplies had also been sent. Teams in Beira were coordinating the distribution of incoming Turkish aid.
50. **Mr. Bastaki** (Observer for United Arab Emirates) said that his Government had committed \$18.3 million to relief and recovery operations, \$5 million of which was being channelled through the Emirates Red Crescent. Relief supplies were being flown from the United Nations supply hub at Dubai International Humanitarian City. Forecast-based financing should be expanded, so that aid might be delivered in advance of credibly predicted climate events.
51. **Mr. Kakanur** (India) said that his country had launched a relief operation on 23 March 2019. Three naval vessels had been dispatched with immediate aid: they had rescued more than 200 people and rendered medical assistance to 1,300 people. Clean water had been distributed and operations to clear debris were under way. A fourth vessel carrying food and medical supplies was expected in Beira on 11 April and aircraft had also been deployed. Medical supplies and rice were being sent to Malawi; medical supplies were expected in Zimbabwe by mid-April 2019. In Mozambique, the local Indian community was participating in relief operations.
52. **Mr. Braquetti** (Observer for Monaco) said that his Government was especially concerned about the situation of women and children in the affected countries. Humanitarian aid from his Government would be channelled to those countries through WFP.
53. **Mr. Soomauroo** (Observer for Mauritius) said that his Government had contributed \$300,000 in emergency relief to the affected countries. Cyclones would get worse in Southern Africa and there was therefore a need to “build back better”, improve disaster risk management and enhance mechanisms for a concerted response to disasters.
54. **Ms. Elgarf** (Egypt) said that her Government, which lauded the swift response to the disaster by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the African Union and neighbouring countries, was considering how it could best provide humanitarian assistance to the affected countries.
55. **Mr. Shilla** (Observer for United Republic of Tanzania) said that his country had sent food and medical supplies to the affected countries.
56. **Ms. Paju** (Observer for Estonia) said that her Government would provide the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with €30,000 for their emergency relief efforts in the affected countries. In 2019, her country would contribute €100,000 to the Central Emergency Response Fund, €100,000 to the International Committee of the Red Cross and €20,000 to the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team.
57. **Ms. Muigai** (Kenya) said that her Government had delivered 12 tons of food to the affected countries and had also deployed military search-and-rescue aircraft there.
58. **Mr. Tanner** (Observer for Finland) said that his country, which was a donor to the Central Emergency Response Fund, had supplied emergency and technical support to the affected countries and had also sent them advisers. In addition, it had contributed €500,000 to the Finnish Red Cross for relief operations. An emergency field hospital had been established north of Beira to treat cholera patients.
59. **Mr. Islam** (Observer for Bangladesh) said that his country had adopted a proactive approach to disaster risk reduction, in particular by boosting community preparedness and early warning systems, which had led to fewer casualties and lower levels of damage caused by extreme weather events. Salinity-resistant crops had also been introduced.
60. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Observer for Guatemala) said that Cyclone Idai and the recent eruption of a volcano in his country underlined the need for improved disaster preparedness and more investment in development.
61. **Mr. Nielsen** (Denmark) said that his country had deployed relief workers to the affected countries, for which it had also mobilized \$2.2 million in aid. Denmark was a donor to the Central Emergency Response Fund.
62. **Ms. Udida** (Observer for Nigeria) said that Cyclone Idai had been a wake-up call to the

international community, which had been generous in providing assistance, on the impact of climate change.

63. **Mr. Blewitt** (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) said that 10 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies were currently working with the International Committee of the Red Cross in the affected countries. Two emergency response units had been deployed to provide clean water and tackle cholera outbreaks and a field hospital with capacity for 150,000 people had been set up. The resources of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, however, were wholly inadequate to confront even the short-term humanitarian impact of the disaster. In general, too little was being invested in resilience and adaptation to climate change in vulnerable communities.

64. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that there was a need to focus on rebuilding livelihoods and protecting food security in the affected countries.

65. **Mr. McLellan** (International Organization for Migration) said that his organization was working with the Governments of the affected countries and United Nations agencies to quantify needs and establish temporary shelters and camps. In-kind aid received thus far had been crucial but unrestricted funding and more expert personnel would be needed over the longer term. The protection of women and children was a key priority for his organization.

66. **Mr. Egerton** (World Meteorological Organization (WMO)) said that Cyclone Idai had brought winds of nearly 180 km/h. Most deaths had been caused by the resulting storm surge. In just five days, the worst affected areas had received twice the monthly average of rainfall. His organization had given the United Nations advance warning of the cyclone and advice on how to respond. It had also sent hydrology and disaster experts to the region. The recently released *WMO Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2018* showed that temperatures were rising around the world. Global warming would lead to more intense tropical cyclones and greater coastal inundation.

Conclusion of the special meeting

67. **The President** said that the participation by Member States in the special meeting of the Council demonstrated their continued commitment to multilateralism. The United Nations system needed to help countries to prepare for and respond to adverse weather events through investment, development assistance and the adoption of a long-term vision for resilience. The international community must build on the momentum generated by the adoption of the

Katowice climate package at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which had been held in December 2018 in Poland.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.