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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 8 October 2019, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Niang (Senegal)
later: Mr. Al-kuwari (Qatar)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Paolino Laborde** (Uruguay) said that sustainable development was a broad and long-term goal predicated on a number of domestic and international factors. At the national level, those factors included the rule of law, the promotion of democracy and respect for human rights, which were all fundamental principles for economic and social well-being. At the international level, joint efforts were needed to eradicate poverty, increase official development assistance (ODA), promote alternative sources of financing and address environmental concerns, among other issues. The United Nations had a crucial role to play in democratizing the benefits of globalization.

2. Commending the Secretary-General for holding the Climate Action Summit 2019, he urged the international community to continue building the Organization's capacity to improve food security, preserve the environment and conserve national resources, especially in the context of the major threat to the planet posed by climate change. Further progress towards implementing the commitments agreed under the Paris Agreement was crucial, including by providing increased support to middle-income countries currently excluded from ODA owing to biased criteria that did not reflect the reality of their socioeconomic situation. For example, the graduation of Uruguay to middle-income country status, based solely on its income per capita, had led to significant challenges. The adoption of a multidimensional vision of development beyond income per capita would be a much fairer approach.

3. **Mr. Bayley Angeleri** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was being implemented against a backdrop of global uncertainty. The development of societies required the staunch defence of multilateralism through such principles as independence, solidarity, social justice and common but differentiated responsibilities. All countries must have access to means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and achieve more inclusive, equitable, sustainable economic growth that left no one behind. The Goals, targets and indicators were directly linked to national development policies in his country. Despite the challenges being faced, the Government had strengthened mechanisms for cooperation with the United Nations through projects and programmes that combined the three pillars of sustainable development with national policies and plans.

4. His Government rejected the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, particularly in the economic, financial and trade spheres, as they undermined the right to self-determination and breached the sovereignty of the countries concerned. Such measures, which were incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, impeded the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in the countries of the South. The unilateral measures imposed on his country hindered its normal political, economic, social and cultural development and had a negative impact on the human rights of its citizens.

5. In order for the multilateral trade system to be fair, it must be based on special and differentiated treatment and uphold the principles of solidarity, cooperation, complementarity and respect for sovereignty. Furthermore, no single criterion or model should be applied to the provision of international development assistance, which must take the national development plans, strategies and priorities of all countries into account.

6. While South-South cooperation remained an important complement to North-South cooperation, developed countries must fulfil their ODA commitments in order to contribute to the eradication of poverty and hunger.

7. The adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015 was a historic milestone in global efforts to combat climate change. His country had reaffirmed its commitment in that regard by depositing its instrument of ratification.

8. **Mr. Fialho Rocha** (Cabo Verde) said that while the implementation of the 2030 Agenda faced significant impediments, he remained optimistic that the Committee had the requisite technical expertise and political will to propose effective and decisive actions. As it would not be possible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals without accelerated progress on development finance, his delegation welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General to realign the international financial system with the Goals and encouraged public partners and the private sector to accelerate their participation in that process.

9. As middle-income countries like Cabo Verde were deprived of concessional financing, they needed more equitable and tailored access to international funding. Tangible solutions included reassessing the eligibility criteria for concessional financing, increasing the availability of ODA and enhancing access to other innovative forms of financing. In the quest for sustainable solutions, the international community should also act to help small island developing States access more secure and predictable funding, become

more economically competitive and enhance their resilience to extreme climate events. Innovative mechanisms capable of ensuring the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda while maintaining debt burdens at a sustainable and acceptable level must be explored to the fullest possible extent.

10. His Government had adopted a strategic plan for sustainable development for the period 2017–2021, which encompassed a comprehensive portfolio of projects in key transformative sectors that would have a profound impact on the nation's long-term development. The main objective was to create public partnerships and mobilize financing, including blended finance, to promote private sector investment in the economy.

11. **Mr. Conte** (Guinea) said that urgent action was needed to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensure that no one was left behind, particularly given the increasingly negative impact of climate change on those efforts. To that end, his Government had launched a national economic and social development plan for the period 2016–2020 that laid the groundwork for structural transformation of the national economy. Under the plan, the Government aimed, by 2020: to increase the human development index to 0.482; to reduce poverty to 45 per cent; to increase primary sector growth to 8.1 per cent; to increase the manufacturing industry's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) to 9.5 per cent; and to increase the share of exported manufactured products to 12.5 per cent. The plan was supported by Guinea 2040, a long-term vision. Both the plan and the vision incorporated major regional and international agendas such as Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

12. In the context of the national reforms under way, Guinea had seen a sharp increase in private investment in all sectors. In order to ensure better wealth distribution, the Government had also established a National Agency for Financing Local Communities and a National Agency for Economic and Social Inclusion. Those institutions would be used to transfer funds directly to vulnerable populations in remote areas of the country.

13. Guinea had committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 13 per cent and a large-scale programme was under way to reforest 2 million hectares of national territory by 2030. In order to maintain those ambitious efforts, support from bilateral and multilateral partners would be vital.

14. **Mr. Annakou** (Libya) said that a number of challenges were impeding the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including weak

economic growth and increased youth unemployment. The balanced and holistic implementation of the 2030 Agenda required tireless efforts and cooperation between developed and developing countries to ensure that no region was excluded from the dividends of development. To that end, priority must be given to countries emerging from conflict and to ensuring that they were secure and stable. In the case of Libya, that meant providing assistance to the legitimate Government and not supporting anyone attempting to overthrow it in violation of Security Council resolutions.

15. There could be no development without security and stability. Libya was suffering from an inability to secure its borders as a result of clandestine immigration and organized crime, among other factors. In order to address the root causes rather than the symptoms of those problems, it would be necessary to improve the development prospects of countries of origin, provide assistance to countries of destination and combat criminal organizations engaged in human trafficking, including by cutting off their sources of funding. Funds illegally transferred from African countries must also be returned to their countries of origin, including to Libya, which desperately needed those funds for investment in its own development projects.

16. Libya intended to present its voluntary national review at the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be convened in July 2020.

17. **Mr. Al-Khaqani** (Iraq) said that the structural economic reforms under way in his country were aimed at increasing public revenue and expanding the private sector. Partnerships between developing and developed countries played an important role by facilitating access for small and medium-sized enterprises to international markets, especially in the areas of technology transfer and private sector development. It was crucial that developed countries fulfilled their agreed ODA commitments as development assistance had a major impact on infrastructure projects, particularly in countries affected by war and terrorism. Indeed, terrorists were deliberately targeting the infrastructure of Iraq in order to undermine its economic activities.

18. His Government supported the holistic achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through an approach that respected national sovereignty and national development plans. Iraq had submitted its first voluntary national review report to the high-level political forum in 2019 and the sustainable development plan would be implemented despite the terrorist challenge that the country continued to face. Terrorism represented a major threat to the sustainable development plans of several countries, which were

instead forced to use their funds to combat that scourge. The international community had become increasingly aware of the negative impact that terrorism had on the environment in general and on sustainable development in particular, as recognized in a number of recent international declarations.

19. **Mr. Ugarelli** (Peru) said that his country had incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development plans, which prioritized the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the strengthening of the rule of law, democratic governance and the fight against corruption. Peru would present its second voluntary national review in 2020 and supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to reform the United Nations development system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

20. Peru was committed to the rules-based multilateral trade system of the World Trade Organization (WTO), an organization which must be strengthened to ensure the stability, predictability and transparency of that system for all.

21. As a megadiverse country particularly vulnerable to climate change, Peru was harnessing opportunities to achieve low-emission development, called for strengthened implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and emphasized that disaster risk management should be central to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Government's realistic programme of work would help to improve the nationally determined contribution of Peru by 2020 and the cross-cutting adaptation and mitigation measures incorporated therein would achieve the goals that it had set by 2030.

22. **Mr. Skoknic Tapia** (Chile) said that the international community must urgently step up its efforts to achieve comprehensive sustainable development and combat climate change. To that end his Government, among other measures, was working to ensure that the country's energy mix was entirely carbon free, introducing electric public transport, establishing stringent energy efficiency standards across all sectors and developing an ambitious reforestation plan.

23. The twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would be held in Santiago from 2 to 13 December 2019. That session was a valuable opportunity to ensure the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and usher in a new era of more ambitious climate action. Success at the global level would depend on the unity and cooperation of all.

24. As explained by Chile in the presentation of its voluntary national review in July 2019, the Government, civil society, the private sector, academia and industry were all working together for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which were both considered State policies.

25. The international trading system must be rules-based and open in order to ensure peace and prosperity for all, and the recent global protectionist measures witnessed must therefore be discarded. The United Nations was the competent body to address such issues and his delegation fully supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to reform the United Nations development system.

26. **Mr. Petchezi** (Togo) said that Committee members should work together in a spirit of compromise at the current session to tackle the immense challenges facing the world, particularly the high levels of extreme poverty and the growing threat from climate change. In a global context of increased protectionism and trade wars, the 2030 Agenda remained the universal key to meeting development challenges and the Sustainable Development Goals had set out the path to follow towards a better future for all. However, much remained to be done to achieve the Goals and efforts must be stepped up at all levels and by all stakeholders. For its part, Togo had launched a national development plan for the period 2018–2022 that was aligned with the Goals. The plan was aimed at structurally transforming the economy, providing sustainable and inclusive growth, creating decent work for all and improving individual well-being.

27. The fulfilment of development commitments would also depend on the capacity of the international community to mobilize the necessary funds and establish innovative international partnerships. In that connection, his delegation particularly supported the Principles for Responsible Banking, which had been launched under United Nations auspices by 130 banks from 49 countries, representing more than \$47 trillion in assets. The Principles, which would align banking activities with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, were a major contribution to the financing for development framework.

28. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's initiative to reform the United Nations development system and called for all Member States to seize the opportunities provided by multilateralism to usher in an era of economic cooperation and international trade that would bring hope to the international community at a time of great uncertainty.

29. **Mr. Gallegos Chiriboga** (Ecuador) said that multilateralism and dialogue were invaluable tools for resolving differences between countries and that common challenges to be addressed included poverty in all its dimensions, hunger and malnutrition, inequalities, unsustainable means of production and consumption, and climate change. As the planet was shared by all, its biological diversity must be protected, environmental degradation and pollution stopped, and drought and desertification combated. Development progress must be made in harmony with nature, with all generations sharing responsibility for that task equally.

30. Ecuador remained committed to fully implementing the main global agreements on sustainable development while also tackling issues of financing and the creation of enabling environments. Inclusive and sustainable economic growth for all was needed through an integrated approach to global economic governance that embraced multilateralism. His Government was also committed to investing in the social sector, particularly education, health and housing, which would contribute towards eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities. Social protection systems were effective tools for promoting economic sustainability.

31. **Ms. Mufeez** (Bahrain) said that the Constitution of Bahrain guaranteed everyone the right to basic services so that no one was left behind. The Government attached great importance to sustainable development and had allocated 32 per cent of the national budget to health, education and social security. It had also signed a strategic partnership with United Nations agencies for the sustainable development of Bahrain, the first country in the region to do so. Bahrain had presented its first voluntary national review at the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened in July 2018.

32. Under the national legislation enacted to date, 78 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goals had been included in the Government's action plan. Other measures adopted had led to the provision of free primary education, the complete eradication of illiteracy and the establishment of equal opportunities committees designed to bridge the gender gap. Providing decent housing for low-income households and creating sustainable cities were other main priorities outlined by the Government as part of its sustainable development vision.

33. **Mr. Tierney** (Ireland) said that, in an increasingly unstable world, his country remained committed to promoting international cooperation as the only way to create peace, achieve sustainable development, combat climate change and ensure the protection of human

rights for all. The session's theme of inclusive societies based on new economic models had captured some of the biggest contemporary challenges relating to how peace and prosperity for all could be achieved without furthering the destruction of the natural environment. The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement provided the road map to solve those challenges and usher in an age of sustainability and equality.

34. More must be done during the current session to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to recognize the unique challenges faced by the most vulnerable countries, particularly small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. It would be important to tackle such issues as debt sustainability for small island developing States and to build on the political declaration of the high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway). Similarly, work was needed to ensure a successful review in December 2019 of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024.

35. The Committee's work should reflect the ambitious commitments made at the Climate Action Summit 2019 and the scale of the multiple challenge posed by climate change. Ireland expressed its solidarity with Mozambique and the Bahamas in the aftermath of the recent natural disasters suffered by those countries and reaffirmed its support for the Sendai Framework in that regard.

36. His delegation welcomed the opportunity to have an informal working group to evaluate the Committee's current working methods with a view to exploring opportunities for improvements. Revitalization of the Committee's work was necessary to ensure continued progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

37. **Mr. Rai** (Nepal) said that the United Nations had adopted a series of ambitious agendas and resolutions over the past decade, but its work had yet to transform from dialogue to delivery. The next decade must therefore be one of action and delivery. While multilateralism had culminated in an ambitious and transformative 2030 Agenda, that agenda could only be implemented if similar multilateral approaches underpinned the international community's actions. It was a particular cause for concern that the rules-based multilateral trading system was in jeopardy following the erosion of trust and the rise of protectionism. Such

tensions had the potential to wreck the recovery seen over the past decade.

38. A robust and inclusive international partnership remained critical to lifting millions out of poverty and exclusion, especially for countries in special situations. Globalization had worked for a few countries but not for all, and elements of inclusion, equity and social justice were missing from the entire process. The continued exclusion of a significant portion of the world's population remained a bitter fact. A new wave of marginalization was now pending, in which the benefits of the technological revolution would be shared unevenly. Multilateral dialogue was therefore needed to establish the normative framework in areas such as digital cooperation.

39. A robust response was also needed to address the threat of climate change, which endangered the sustainability of the planet and the very future of humanity. International cooperation on adaptation, mitigation and resilience-building measures must be ensured through more accessible climate finance for the poorest and most vulnerable countries that were hit hardest by the impacts of climate change, despite their own negligible emissions.

40. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda was a national priority and would be integral to his country's graduation from least developed country status. Nepal intended to present its second voluntary national review during the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be convened in 2020.

41. *Mr. Al-kuwari (Qatar) took the Chair.*

42. **Mr. Louis** (Haiti) said that his delegation welcomed the comprehensive picture of the status of implementation of the 2030 Agenda outlined in the reports of the Secretary-General on empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality (E/2019/65) and on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2019/68). The shortcomings listed in paragraph 8 of the latter document, in particular, were cause for great concern.

43. States at all levels must adopt a holistic approach to sustainable development in order to appropriately address the major challenges facing the most vulnerable countries, which were lagging behind in achieving the Goals and suffering from the worst impacts of climate change. The Committee had a crucial role to play in implementing effective strategies and mobilizing sufficient resources to ensure that no one was left behind.

44. **Ms. Khyne** (Myanmar) said that the outlook for the global economy was far from satisfactory: the

projected global economic slowdown and risk of recession resulting from continued trade tensions between the world's largest economies could threaten the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Collaborative partnerships must be forged to address the wide array of interrelated challenges facing the modern world, particularly the formidable challenge of poverty in the least developed countries, which had deep structural impediments to economic growth.

45. While ODA remained crucial for sustainable development, developing countries had yet to see a substantial increase in its level or a drastic reduction in their debt. Fulfilment of the financing, trade, debt and other commitments contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development remained critical. Trust must also be rebuilt in WTO as an open, rules-based multilateral trading system that was responsive to the needs and concerns of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries. WTO members must fully implement all specific provisions contained in that organization's existing agreements concerning the least developed countries.

46. Myanmar welcomed the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, which would accelerate efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It also welcomed the ambitious reform of the United Nations development system undertaken by the Secretary-General.

47. As peace and stability were crucial for achieving development, Myanmar had made national reconciliation a top priority. In that context, three sessions of the Union Peace Conference had been convened to reach agreement on the fundamental principles for democratic federal union.

48. As one of the world's most disaster-prone countries that was exposed to multiple hazards, including floods, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides and droughts, Myanmar had made significant progress in equipping itself with the institutional and policy instruments required to address climate change.

49. **Ms. Chelbi** (Tunisia) said that, despite the efforts undertaken to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, many challenges remained, particularly in the area of poverty eradication. In the face of daunting socioeconomic and environmental challenges, developing countries would need increased assistance from the international community, which should work to strengthen multilateralism, collective solidarity and partnerships.

50. Tunisia was committed to implementing its regional and international sustainable development agreements as embodied by the Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations. Both instruments had been incorporated into the national development plan for the period 2016–2020 and Tunisia had presented its voluntary national review on the Sustainable Development Goals at the high-level political forum in July 2019.

51. The Government was working to combat poverty and marginalization, especially in landlocked areas, and to achieve socioeconomic integration, which was a national priority. It was also focused on human development, the use of modern digital technology and the development of a knowledge society. National plans had been developed to promote high-quality education for girls and boys, and, in particular, the political, economic and social rights of young people and women and their participation in the public sector. The Tunisian parliament had enacted social security legislation to protect the most vulnerable sectors of society in order to leave no one behind.

52. Aware of the scale of the threat from climate change, Tunisia had been one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Paris Agreement. The right of future generations to a healthy environment was a national priority that had been included in the 2016–2020 national development plan.

53. **Mr. Carazo** (Costa Rica) said that the international community must step up joint action to implement the 2030 Agenda and more must be done to ensure that everyone enjoyed the fruits of inclusive and sustainable development. However, there could be no sustainable development without the protection and full enjoyment of human rights.

54. In 2016, a national compact had been signed between the Government, unions, the private sector, academia, civil society, local governments and the Costa Rica Ombudsperson. Generating inclusive regional and national economic growth in harmony with nature, creating high-quality jobs and reducing poverty and inequality were all national priorities established under the compact.

55. Climate action must go hand-in-hand with environmental conservation and preservation efforts. To that end, the Government had launched a long-term plan to remove carbon from the national economy that set out a new green development model.

56. Managing technological change in order to foster decent work and bridge digital and gender divides would be key to promoting inclusion and conserving the social

and democratic fabric of societies. Costa Rica supported policies and programmes that increased public and private investment in sustainable development from both national and international sources. It also welcomed discussions on climate vulnerability and innovative financing mechanisms. The unbridled arms race was a good example of how resources that should be invested in the well-being of peoples were being diverted elsewhere.

57. **Ms. Jemuovic** (Serbia) said that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was of the utmost importance for the creation of a more prosperous and safer world, and the Committee should therefore focus its attention on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Doing so would reaffirm the indispensable role of the United Nations as a global forum for dealing with the Goals. Concrete steps must now be taken to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, to which Serbia remained fully committed.

58. Serbia had established a working group for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and a focus group for the achievement of the Goals. It had presented its first voluntary national review in July 2019, which had highlighted efforts to address depopulation, reduce inequalities, improve social inclusion and solidarity and empower women and girls to achieve full gender equality. The need for further efforts to achieve a guaranteed income had also been emphasized. The national development strategy was based on activities aimed at eradicating poverty, increasing employment, providing high-quality education and health care, strengthening institutions, improving the economy and upholding the rule of law, as well as ensuring respect for human rights for all and building peaceful and inclusive societies.

59. Recognizing the impact of climate change, Serbia had ratified the Paris Agreement and had been among the first countries to submit its intended nationally determined contribution. Having initially committed to a 9.8 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990, the Ministry of Environmental Protection now intended to revise that commitment to a more ambitious level. A draft law providing for climate change adaptation in accordance with the European Union pre-accession process and obligations under the Paris Agreement was expected to be adopted by the end of the year. A long-term strategy and an action plan to address climate change were also being prepared in cooperation with the European Union.

60. **Mr. Malik** (India) said that India was on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and that most of its climate change targets would be achieved ahead of time. India would present its second voluntary national review at the high-level political forum to be convened in July 2020.

61. The issue of water and sanitation was essential to achieving all the Goals, particularly on health, nutrition, sustainable cities and gender equality. India had successfully implemented the world's largest sanitation campaign under the Clean India Mission, for which over 100 million toilets had been built in just five years. A new Ministry for Water Conservation and Management had been established to comprehensively address all water-related issues and provide tap water to all households by 2024.

62. India envisioned becoming a leader in renewable energy and had introduced several new initiatives for clean and green energy: by 2020, India planned to produce 175 gigawatts of renewable energy, including 100 gigawatts of solar power, and was working towards reaching the longer-term target of producing 450 gigawatts of renewable energy.

63. A national disaster management plan had been developed in June 2016 as part of the commitment to the Sendai Framework, and India had recently launched a coalition for disaster resilient infrastructure in order to assist countries in upgrading their capacities and practices.

64. India had taken several steps to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, including organizing the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties from 2 to 13 September 2019 in New Delhi. At the Conference, the Government had announced that India would raise its target for restoring degraded land from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares by 2030.

65. Research and innovation would be the driving force behind the fourth industrial revolution. In that regard, India had introduced flagship digital and start-up programmes and now had the cheapest rates of data services in the world.

66. In 2017, India had established the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund to work with other developing countries in a spirit of South-South cooperation. A total of \$150 million had been committed over the next decade for projects in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Over the past two years the

Fund had developed 38 projects in 36 partner countries. Another 29 projects were already well under way.

67. Welcoming the steps taken by the Secretary-General to reform the United Nations development system, he noted that his country had made a voluntary contribution to the resident coordinator system special purpose trust fund.

68. **Ms. Alnaqbi** (United Arab Emirates) said that strengthening human values and meeting the aspirations of young people were the basis of future development and prosperity. In that context, Dubai would shortly host Expo 2020 and the Government had launched Vision 2021, which set out its near-term socioeconomic development goals for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Her country has strengthened its international partnerships for the promotion of sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental spheres. It also played a strategic role as a major donor to development projects in several countries. For example, in 2018 the United Arab Emirates had provided \$3.8 billion in such assistance, totalling 0.95 per cent of its GDP. It was also contributing funds to bridge the digital divide.

69. Aware of the importance of cooperation on industrial development and investment issues, her country would play host to the eighteenth session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) from 3 to 7 November 2019 and to the eighth UNIDO Ministerial Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 2 November 2019.

70. National efforts to combat climate change had been prioritized and all countries must do their part to counter that major threat. In 2017, a national strategy to increase renewable and clean energy to 50 per cent of the energy mix by 2050 had been devised in order to strike a balance between economic needs and environmental objectives.

71. The United Arab Emirates supported all efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to implement commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Climate Action Summit 2019 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It also supported the Secretary-General's initiative to reform the United Nations development system.

72. **Mr. Ibragimov** (Uzbekistan) said that the ability of countries of the Central Asian region to come together to tackle joint problems had been acknowledged last year in General Assembly resolution [72/283](#), entitled "Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development

in the Central Asian region". In order to further deepen such cooperation, Central Asian States had jointly developed a draft resolution entitled "Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central Asia", which would be submitted for consideration at the current session.

73. It was crucially important to use the untapped potential of tourism to achieve further economic development and improve socioeconomic conditions in the Central Asian region. Promoting sustainable tourism could be a catalyst for poverty reduction and for advancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth. It could also be conducive to empowering women by giving them jobs in the tourism sector and hospitality industry.

74. **Ms. Barros** (Timor-Leste) said that her country's commitment to building a peaceful, just and inclusive society was founded in the guiding principles of its Constitution. National socioeconomic policies were focused on alleviating poverty, addressing immediate needs, consolidating security and stability, and providing a foundation for nationhood through the building of State institutions.

75. As a small island developing State vulnerable to climate change, Timor-Leste had put in place a national adaptation plan of action to address environmental sustainability and resilience. Investments in climate-proof infrastructure and renewable energy were already being made under a strategic development plan that also aimed to reach the level of 50 per cent energy production from environmentally sustainable sources by 2030.

76. In addition to national measures, global action was required to combat the effects of climate change, particularly to offset the rising debt burden. In particular, the international community must mobilize specific solutions to promote appropriate levels of financing for small island developing States, which were increasingly affected by natural disasters with long-lasting financial impacts. Debt sustainability was a shared responsibility and the international community should work together to reach a consensus on responsible lending and borrowing arrangements. Innovative instruments, such as cancelling developing countries' debt in exchange for climate change action, needed to be considered in that context. Similarly, international development assistance should be directed to support national priorities and take into consideration country-specific situations.

77. **Mr. Mezang Akamba** (Cameroon) said that his country fully supported the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly.

States should work together constructively to achieve the commitments set out therein. Similarly, the Sustainable Development Goals would not be achieved without cooperation among all stakeholders. Cameroon recalled the need to continue to revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development in a spirit of global solidarity, particularly with the poorest and most vulnerable. In particular, the Committee should build strategic partnerships for financing for development and support efforts to combat illicit financial flows and return stolen assets to the countries of origin.

78. In view of the call to think globally but act locally, Cameroon was committed to ambitious decentralization reforms aimed at strengthening local governments and institutions as tools for the empowerment and inclusion of young people, women and the marginalized with a view to leaving no one behind. It commended the different initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in that regard, urged all Member States and specialized agencies to support the Network of African Local Government Financing Institutions and called for the establishment of a global alliance of financial institutions for local communities.

79. Cameroon had undertaken a number of steps under its Vision 2035 in order to meet the aspirations of citizens to live in a democratic and prosperous country united in its diversity. Notable progress had been made in the educational sector and in reducing inequalities, as comprehensively explained by Cameroon during the presentation of its voluntary national review at the most recent the high-level political forum. Programmes had also been established to reduce poverty, increase income and advance the status of women and the family.

80. Cameroon had been one of the first signatories of the Paris Agreement and aimed to achieve a 32 per cent reduction in its carbon emissions by 2035. The financial resources envisioned by the international community under the Green Climate Fund should be made available to countries of the subregion to accelerate their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

81. **Mr. Herrera Molina** (El Salvador) said that future prosperity would largely be determined by international efforts to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

82. El Salvador urged the United Nations system, in consultation with international financial institutions, to develop multidimensional indicators for measuring development progress, beyond income per capita, so that countries did not lose access to concessional financing as their incomes grew. Transparent social

development indicators were also needed that recognized poverty in all its forms, identified the economic, social and environmental dimensions of national production, and highlighted structural shortcomings at all levels.

83. His Government championed alternative financing mechanisms that could support intraregional South-South cooperation initiatives. It also acknowledged the importance of triangular cooperation, which must be strengthened to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

84. In view of the need for a rules-based, universal, open, non-discriminatory and equitable trade system, El Salvador recognized the value of further integrating national economies, promoting public-private partnerships, engaging all sectors of society in national development efforts and fostering mechanisms for intraregional and extraregional trade.

85. Given the vulnerability of the Central American region to climate change, El Salvador recognized the importance of strengthening the implementation of the Sendai Framework, stepping up mitigation and adaptation measures in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and ensuring access to the necessary means of implementation.

86. His delegation would submit the biannual draft resolution on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America at the current session, which it called for Member States to support by consensus as in previous years.

87. **Monsignor Hansen** (Observer for the Holy See), welcoming the extensive scope of issues discussed within the Committee and the growing attention to sustainable, equitable and integral development, said that such a broad approach to economic and financial activity highlighted the fact that the work of the United Nations was not based on a profit-driven model but rather began with the human person as a whole and the common good of all peoples.

88. Reflecting on the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Pope Francis had underscored that a reductive vision of the human person opened the way to the growth of injustice, social inequality and corruption, whereas respect for the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family was the foundation of freedom, justice, peace and integral human development.

89. To advance the work of the United Nations and facilitate the broader revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, each of the six Main Committees should remain focused on their specific discussions and

draft resolutions. It served neither the General Assembly nor the Committees if there was duplication of topics in the various Committees or if controversial issues that impeded progress in one Committee were introduced into the other Committees.

90. The importance of respecting universal human rights and human dignity in the fight to eradicate poverty and promote integral human development could not be overstated. It fostered the advancement of fair and inclusive economic and financial systems and helped to avoid the fragmentation of the development agenda. However, specific considerations on human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the meaning of “rights”, were better left to discussions in the Third Committee.

91. **Mr. Toscano-Rivalta** (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) said that the Sendai Framework was an agreed commitment and road map for disaster risk reduction. The first four years of its implementation had demonstrated that investing in disaster risk reduction and resilience paid off. That was the overwhelming message of the *2019 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction* and of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction jointly organized by the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2019.

92. Despite such evidence, risk-informed policies and investments remained the exception rather than the norm, and the unintended consequences of development and economic policies continued to create disaster risk. Local and national disaster risk reduction strategies must be put in place by 2020 as an essential first step towards changing that dynamic.

93. The deliberations and outcomes of the Climate Summit 2019 had stressed the urgency of reducing disaster risk and had recognized the importance of coherence in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Samoa Pathway and the New Urban Agenda. The opportunity must be seized to establish policy and programmatic coherence between national disaster risk reduction strategies, sustainable development strategies, climate change adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions by 2020. It was also crucial to develop disaster risk reduction financing strategies and to establish links with the integrated national financing framework for the Sustainable Development Goals. Any trade-offs between the Goals must be disaster risk informed.

94. Disasters left people behind, with the poorest and most marginalized people continuing to bear the brunt.

As poverty, exclusion and marginalization were some of the most powerful drivers of disaster risk, disaster risk reduction was an effective tool to empower people and ensure their inclusion and equality. Given that no country could manage disaster risk alone, enhanced international cooperation, global partnership and solidarity were critical and the only way forward. Greater commitment and leadership were therefore needed from Governments and stakeholders to integrate disaster risk reduction into laws, policies, strategies, regulations and financing across all sectors. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the international community must invest in disaster risk reduction with a much stronger determination, bearing in mind the well-being of both current and future generations.

95. **Mr. Ahmad** (United Nations Environment Programme) said that the scale of unprecedented environmental challenges facing the deteriorating global environment was daunting and the window for action was closing. Worsening planetary health, especially from air pollution, marine litter, land degradation and water pollution, posed major challenges to sustainable development and had unprecedented consequences, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable people and regions. A shift to a restorative and circular economy with nature-based solutions would be crucial.

96. Although time was short, the 2030 Agenda provided the right framework for transformative change and action through partnerships that could ensure a life of dignity for all. In line with the integrated approach to sustainable development of the 2030 Agenda, his organization was actively engaging with other United Nations entities to implement its programme of work and was seeking greater synergies and further opportunities to enhance collaboration and integration with the socioeconomic dimension of sustainable development. To improve integration and minimize fragmentation, an added effort was needed to ensure that the entire expertise of the United Nations system in the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development was fully utilized and integrated into the Committee's discussions.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.