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Chair: Mr. Niang (Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Opening statement by the Chair

1. **The Chair** said that the current session of the General Assembly had opened with a series of interconnected meetings on the climate, the Sustainable Development Goals and financing for small island developing States. All of those meetings had a bearing on the work of the Committee and showed that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was an overarching framework for achieving sustainable development and ensuring a prosperous future for people and planet. The work of the Committee could be considered through the lens of the 2030 Agenda, and many of its agenda items were encapsulated in the “five Ps” at the heart of the 2030 Agenda; people, planet, prosperity, partnership and peace. The first four of those related directly to the work of the Committee: people to the agenda items on poverty, planet to work on climate change and the environment, prosperity to economic policy and trade, and partnership to financing for sustainable development. The fifth, peace, was not an item on the Committee’s agenda, but was a prerequisite for development. In strengthening multilateralism and working in a spirit of consensus, the Committee could promote the benefits of globalization and decrease its negative effects, thus contributing to the coming of a stable and peaceful society.

2. The political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly had called for urgent action to achieve the Goals by 2030. Without accelerated action, a number of targets, including reducing extreme poverty and preventing biodiversity loss would not be achieved and no improvement would be made to the lives of the poorest and most marginalized.

3. The four interrelated mega trends of economic growth, inequality, climate change and technological innovation, mentioned by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs the previous week were shaping the trajectory of sustainable development and should be borne in mind in the Committee’s discussions and resolutions. Slow economic growth and shrinking policy space were forcing the Committee to think outside the box, since the only way to achieve the Goals was through low-carbon consumption and production. The importance of global solidarity should also be noted – it was not only a matter of money, but of cooperation and coordination – and countries needed financing plans to support their national strategies. Inequality among and within countries deprived people of their right to live in dignity and called for consideration of inclusion

when negotiating resolutions on poverty, women in development, countries in special situations, middle-income countries, human resources and globalization. Climate change and environmental degradation triggered instability, conflict and migration, and the most affected were the most vulnerable. Small island developing States, for example, were losing 10 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) each year due to climate-related disasters. Rapid technological innovation should be facilitated to reach its full potential as a powerful tool to achieve the Goals, although societies also needed to be safeguarded against its negative effects, including the widening technological divide.

4. The Committee had a pivotal role to play in the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development launched by the high-level political forum. It should show leadership, encourage all stakeholders to step up and ensure that the latest developments were reflected in its guidance, in order to make a difference in people’s lives.

Keynote statements

5. **Mr. Keys** (Research Scientist, School of Global Environmental Sustainability, Colorado State University) said that he wished to begin his address by acknowledging the Lenape peoples, on whose land the Committee was meeting, and to commit to empowering indigenous voices and being a steward of the entire Earth system. He intended to talk about the prospect of a just and equitable future, the challenges presented by the Anthropocene and the reconciliation of sustainable development with the present reality.

6. Although a just and equitable future must be possible, there was little evidence for it. Swedish academic Hans Rosling had developed tools to understand how the world was changing which showed that, on average, things were getting better. Averages, however, hid the significant expansion of wealth inequality within countries since the 1980s. The very rich had captured more wealth than all other income groups – an argument made by Thomas Piketty in *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. Piketty had stated that, for much of recent history, the return on capital had been greater than economic growth; the already wealthy were likely to get wealthier, while it was harder for the rest to capture the same wealth as they were reliant on general economic growth. Revelations had since been made of vast wealth holdings in offshore banks and tax havens that were used to hide the financing of activities, including tropical deforestation. Those realities conspired to create a global financial system that fundamentally enriched the few at the expense of the many. Yet, despite historic legacies of extraction and

colonialism, the issue was not one of the industrial world against the emerging world, but rather of the rich and powerful against the not rich and not powerful. The economic system must change.

7. Scientists claimed that the world had entered the human age, the Anthropocene, since humanity was modifying the water and carbon cycles, the air, the oceans, the soil and biodiversity without a good sense of the consequences. The Anthropocene denoted a time of rapid and accelerating changes. Since the changes were accelerating, they were nonlinear, which meant that the past could not be used to understand the future. Since the Anthropocene was characterized by entire systems of interacting nonlinear challenges, he had worked with colleagues to develop the concept of Anthropocene risk to provide a conceptual framing for grappling with those challenges. Anthropocene risks were characterized by human-driven changes to the Earth system; global social and ecological connections; and cross-scale interactions from local to global and immediate to long-term. One example of an Anthropocene risk was the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest – a matter of regional policy with far-reaching consequences. The Amazon provided for up to 25 per cent of rainfall in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay, and its deforestation could be linked to the financial activities of States and transnational corporations far from South America.

8. An understanding of Anthropocene risks was therefore critical, given their potentially large consequences, which were disconnected in time and space. That mattered to the Sustainable Development Goals because the long-term impact of many of the changes made to the system was not known. Further study was needed to determine the important and unexpected consequences of the Goals, in order to guide policy. Similarly, while the indicators and targets of the Goals were relative to a baseline state, the Anthropocene threatened that way of thinking as the Earth system no longer had a stable baseline. Achievement of the Goals required targeting achievement for the future, through an honest look at the world and the Goals in 2030 or beyond to consider whether investments were consistent with the demands of the future world. For example, investment in sub-Saharan agriculture needed to be consistent with a changed climate and the migration of entire ecosystems. If that was not the case, the context for investment in the Goals should be re-evaluated and the nonlinear changes inherent to the Anthropocene better accommodated.

9. A world where people could prosper socially, economically, culturally and spiritually within a thriving Earth system was not the world of today, while the world of the future was being guided by systems that only

reflected the interests of a powerful few. To bend the trajectory of the world to achieve the Goals in a lasting and meaningful way would require the redistribution of power and influence in alignment with notions of environmental justice and equity. That would mean harnessing the current financial system to work for sustainability, including by integrating sustainability criteria into investment decisions, loan agreements and stock exchange listing rules. It would also mean embracing local and indigenous perspectives and knowledge on interaction with the Earth, particularly since the Anthropocene was commensurate with the permanent loss of place for hundreds of local and indigenous cultures. Inclusive development paradigms should seek desirable development trajectories that did not simply replicate what had been done before, and new economic models to foster those activities. Fundamental questions needed to be considered: which paradigms were being reinforced by the types of development financing and action taking place; who defined sustainability; who decided what development was and the type of financing used to achieve it; and who decided who made those decisions.

10. Sustainable development must be possible. The global community must identify a path forward that took a radical look at global systems that had failed to deliver on past promises. The assumptions that had guided macroeconomic decision-making for the past century should be questioned and perhaps upended. Ideas could be tailored to specific needs, such as notions of restorative and circular economies, and nature-based solutions that worked with ecosystems and the planet. While scepticism of new ideas was warranted, the models of development that had delivered accelerating climate change, polluted cities and waterways and profound inequality also merited scepticism. The so-called Western model of development, driven by capitalism, rang hollow for the millions of people living in poverty in the West, and the billions in poverty throughout the world. The Committee should encourage the exploration of new economic frontiers to lift societies out of poverty without eroding the Earth systems on which humanity depended.

11. He called on the Committee, as change-makers and leaders, to move boldly and act bravely by adopting an Anthropocene worldview and targeting the achievement of the Goals in the future; embracing new economic models for financing and action for the Goals; and inviting heterogenous perspectives to the table, including indigenous and local voices.

12. **Ms. Bigard** (Executive Director, New Orleans Community Accountability Project and member of the International Movement ATD Fourth World) said that

her family had lived in New Orleans for at least five generations, and had been a part of “sweat equity” in the building of New Orleans’ community and culture. Sweat equity meant that the people who had built the infrastructure and culture of New Orleans had not enjoyed the fruits of their labour or had the opportunity to participate in the wealth it generated.

13. Thanking all those who had sent thoughts, prayers and resources to New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, she noted that the hurricane had revealed the extreme poverty and inequality in the city; more than half of the population of New Orleans could not afford basic necessities. Reconstruction after the hurricane had presented an opportunity to build an equitable city that took care of the most vulnerable, yet, when it came to decision-making, black and indigenous New Orleanians had not been at the table. As a result, 100,000 persons had been unable to return to New Orleans. Decisions, such as fully privatizing the education system, not rebuilding a major charity hospital and replacing only one third of the pre-existing affordable housing, were made without them. Structural racism and classicism had been part of the redesign.

14. Wealth redistribution was about the dream of being able to care for one’s family and attain basic living standards. However, the economy exploited people through a culture of greed and toxic capitalism. During the reconstruction of the city, New Orleans had been ranked first for the creation of new jobs, while the black male unemployment rate had been 52 per cent. That economic model was not sustainable for communities, societies or the planet.

15. Everyone should be included in rebuilding processes and should have a real voice in decision-making. History should be revisited to help avoid the structural racism and inequality that had led to the current situation. If that action was not taken, the world stood to lose what was most important – the culture, music and laughter that fed the soul and gave life meaning. In creating a global society, the things that made life worth living should be at the centre of decisions and policy-making, and the voices of the most impacted and most vulnerable should be heard.

16. **Mr. Simas** (Farmer and member of the International Movement ATD Fourth World) said that ATD Fourth World was a global movement in which people living in poverty were partners in building a world where everyone could live in dignity. As a member of that movement, he and his family had lived in a small village called Mirantão, in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, to learn about rural poverty and its links with the urban world, and support local people’s

efforts to find solutions to it. The people of that village lacked the means to maintain their traditional way of life and identity as farmers, while facing barriers to participation in modern life, including poor access to education, health care and justice, food insecurity and a lack of opportunities. The people of that village had found their own solutions to those challenges, however. One day, his family was given a bag of tomatoes by a neighbour. When they reciprocated, they became friends with the neighbour and found that the more they gave, the more they received. That was the meaning of life – a collective way of being whereby all survived by contributing to the wealth of the community.

17. In a society that traditionally taught people to save and to keep things for themselves, such sharing was an innovative way of redefining wealth and building a shared economy based on healthy relationships and reciprocity. The same principles could be applied to the planet – if it was treated gently, it would never fail to meet humanity’s needs. Too often, policies, development projects and programmes to fight poverty did not take into account existing local provision. They weakened community links, dismantled solidarity networks and exhausted natural resources, leaving more people vulnerable in the long-term. People and communities needed support to build a better life in their own way, which required understanding that could be gained only by sharing the life of a community and bringing people together to connect and move beyond stereotypes. Many questions remained, such as how to build solidarity between the countryside and the cities, and how to expand economic relationships based on trust and abundance, and ATD Fourth World invited all to work together to find the answers. Everyone could give their most valuable assets – their time and their selves. The biggest challenge was to remove the barriers that kept people from offering the best of themselves to the world.

General debate

18. **Mr. Shawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, the convening of the high-level political forum on sustainable development was welcome. However, progress was lagging behind on some key goals and there was only one decade left to translate the common vision into action. The work of the current session was essential to the eradication of poverty and the pursuit of sustainable development in a balanced, coordinated and integrated manner, while underlining the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The international community must strengthen the means of implementation, particularly for developing countries, including across the seven action areas of the Addis

Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in order to remain faithful to its commitments.

19. The Group welcomed the convening of the first high-level dialogue on financing for development since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. He called on the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, to develop transparent measures of progress on sustainable development that went beyond per capita income, building on existing initiatives, and recognized the multidimensional nature of poverty and the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels.

20. In order to leave no one behind and meet the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the diverse needs and challenges of developing countries must be addressed, particularly for countries in special situations, alongside the challenges faced by middle-income countries, countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, and countries and peoples living under foreign occupation. The right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over natural resources must be exercised in the interests of national development and well-being; States should refrain from promulgating or applying unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that were not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and that impeded full economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. The Group reaffirmed the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States.

21. International trade was an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty eradication, and a source of financing for development and achieving sustainable development. He reaffirmed the significance of a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Committee should make a statement during its current session on the importance of investment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of the private sector in supporting efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

22. Climate change was one of the greatest challenges of the present time and disproportionately burdened developing countries, the poorest and most vulnerable among them in particular. The Group therefore welcomed the Climate Action Summit 2019 and the initiative announced to accelerate achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He called

for further action and support for climate change adaptation, mitigation and loss and damage, taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Urgent action was needed to tackle the degradation of natural habitats and prevent the extinction of threatened species. He urged the international community to strengthen efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and protect the ecosystem, and adopt an ambitious and effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

23. Official development assistance (ODA) was important to supporting the sustainable development needs of developing countries and would remain the main channel for international support. South-South cooperation was a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation, which remained the main channel for development cooperation. South-South cooperation must be set by the countries of the South and be guided by respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. The Group welcomed the convening of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and its outcome document, and looked forward to the document's implementation.

24. **Mr. Caballero Gennari** (Paraguay), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that the Committee had a renewed and ambitious mandate in the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and marked the beginning of a crucial 10-year period in which to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Work had begun with a commitment to reverse recent trends, which showed that the efforts so far had not been sufficient in terms of either action or financing.

25. The Group had a combined population of more than 500 million people, many of them in the least developed countries. Addressing the consequences of the identified mega trends and the specific challenges faced by countries in special situations, especially landlocked developing countries, must be an integral part of the Committee's agenda. As mentioned in past general debates, the international community needed to take action and strengthen multilateralism. The momentum generated by the high-level political forum and the upcoming seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations should spur a response to that call for action. In that regard, he welcomed the review of the discussions and recommendations on revitalization of the Committee from the previous session, which would serve as an interesting basis for continued consideration,

and looked forward to confirmation of the new timetable and working group for discussions on revitalization.

26. Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 remained a priority for the Group. To that end, his Government had channelled negotiations on the political declaration for the midterm review of the Vienna Programme of Action, which would take place on 5 and 6 December 2019. All Member States, in particular landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, were invited to participate. The Group also underscored the importance of active participation by the United Nations system and all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, in the midterm review, which would provide an ideal opportunity to renew commitment to revitalizing action for the Sustainable Development Goals, given that the next decade would be key to overcoming obstacles and achieving development in landlocked developing countries.

27. **Mr. Ligoya** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that, while there had been an upturn in trade and economic growth in 2017 and 2018, economic volatility had led to a downturn at the end of 2018 and in early 2019. Challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, regression in financial progress and the growing digital divide further compounded the structural challenges faced by the 47 most vulnerable countries. Unilateralism threatened multilateralism and derailed the cooperation and partnerships required for the least developed countries to overcome their economic challenges and implement the 2030 Agenda. In the final year of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), gaps remained in structural transformation, trade, financing and climate change, despite progress in some areas. In the build up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Group looked forward to continued engagement and cooperation with United Nations members, with a focus on areas of underperformance and emerging issues.

28. The least developed countries had seen a moderate increase in their GDP in 2018, although a long-term assessment of economic performance showed uneven growth, more countries exhibiting structural vulnerability and economic volatility, and an expectation that the 7 per cent annual growth target, set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, would not be met. That shortfall was attributed to rising debt levels, the impacts of climate change and increased global uncertainty, including from trade tensions. The external debt stocks

of developing countries and economies in transition had more than doubled between 2009 and 2018. Although debt servicing as a proportion of goods and services and primary income had decreased on average from 2016 to 2017, 15 countries had experienced increases; 12 least developed countries were considered to be at high risk of debt distress and 5 were already in debt distress.

29. While efforts were being made to improve domestic resource mobilization and increase tax to GDP ratios, a large gap remained between least developed, middle-income and developed countries. The Group reiterated the call for international cooperation through capacity-building and the doubling of ODA for domestic revenue mobilization by 2020, and noted that the report of the Secretary-General on external debt sustainability and development stated that ODA had mobilized less private capital in the least developed countries than in other developing countries. While ODA provided by members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development had increased in real terms, and flows of ODA to least developed countries had increased by 5 per cent between 2015 and 2018, bilateral ODA had decreased in real terms in 2018 and ODA flows remained below the United Nations target. Increased blended finance for least developed countries could increase overall funding for the Sustainable Development Goals, but needed to be aligned with national priorities and not decrease the amount of ODA for other purposes. The investment risks of least developed countries needed to be demystified for blended finance to become a source of development financing. The export of goods from least developed countries had increased in 2017, largely thanks to increased fuel and mineral prices, but remained far below the target of 2 per cent of global exports called for in the Istanbul Programme of Action.

30. In view of those challenges, the Group called on WTO members to commit to addressing the marginalization of least developed countries in international trade and improve their participation in the multilateral trading system, and to fully implement the specific provisions on least developed countries. The WTO secretariat should undertake a comprehensive study on the lack of progress towards the target of the Sustainable Development Goals on increasing the exports of developing countries and make specific recommendations on the way forward.

31. Other issues of concern included the digital divide, climate change and the rise in world hunger. Countries were not on track to achieve target (c) under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 to reduce direct disaster economic loss, while evidence

from 2018 pointed to a third consecutive year of rising hunger, which was increasing in almost all regions of Africa and in South America.

32. **Mr. Srivihok** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that, while the past week of high-level meetings had showcased progress towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda, it had also underscored the challenges needing attention and urgent action. The high-level political forum on sustainable development had seen the reaffirmation of commitments and the Committee should carry over that momentum.

33. The priorities for ASEAN included, first, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through acceleration, localization and cooperation. Sustainable development had been prioritized by ASEAN under the theme “Advancing Partnerships for Sustainability”, which sought to build a people-centred ASEAN community that left no one behind. In that connection, the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda had been promoted in the five key areas of eradicating poverty, improving infrastructure and connectivity, promoting sustainable consumption and production, strengthening the sustainable management of natural resources, and building resilience. A road map and centre for sustainable development studies and dialogue would also advance work on that initiative.

34. Secondly, ASEAN prioritized addressing climate change and building resilience, which was being tackled by strengthening cooperation to respond to the adverse effects of climate change. The pledge made at the Climate Action Summit 2019 for a sustainable and climate resilient community involved improving energy efficiency, scaling up the renewable energy mix and reducing land transport fuel consumption. The capacity of ASEAN to address natural disasters had been strengthened by the One ASEAN One Response approach and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management. A satellite warehouse in Thailand had been launched, joining the facilities in place in Malaysia and the Philippines.

35. Thirdly, with regard to sustainable economic growth, ASEAN was committed to strengthening the integration of the ASEAN Economic Community through trade facilitation and sustainable infrastructure with a focus on sustainable and inclusive economic growth and maximizing the opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution. Green growth opportunities and human capital development had been promoted through

projects and cooperation that benefited women, young people, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

36. Fourthly, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation were priorities. The outcome document of second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was welcome. He encouraged all stakeholders to scale up the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to implement the 2030 Agenda. In order to focus on implementation of the outcome document at the regional level, the Directors-General Forum of ASEAN Countries on Development Cooperation had been held in August 2019, in Bangkok. The recommendations highlighted had included the need to better match needs, strategy and partners, and to ensure greater synergy in development cooperation plans, priority areas for cooperation and the mobilization of resources.

37. Fifthly, ASEAN supported the ongoing repositioning of the United Nations development system and looked forward to contributing to that discussion, particularly on regional architecture and multi-country offices. The benefits of the regional economic commissions were clear and ASEAN was keen to further strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations.

38. Speaking in his national capacity, he noted that the underlying principles for Thailand in pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals were inclusiveness, localization and promoting a home-grown development approach. The “sufficiency economy” philosophy had been shared with friends and partner countries and his Government stood ready to expand that cooperation with interested partners.

39. **Mr. Penaranda** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Like-minded Group of Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, said that middle-income countries accounted for 70 per cent of the global population and 73 per cent of the world’s poor. Nonetheless, the category oversimplified the complexities of those countries and the myriad challenges they faced, which required tailored engagement from the international community and the United Nations system in particular. The Group welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/74/269), particularly the recommendation for Member States to consider integrating multidimensional measures of poverty and other country-specific contexts in order to more effectively assess and demonstrate the specific development needs and challenges faced by middle-income countries. Access to modern technologies was crucial to boost productivity, diversify the production and export base, achieve faster economic growth and

reduce poverty in order to strengthen resilience to external shocks. The fourth ministerial declaration adopted by the Group reaffirmed its principles and vision, and recognized the efforts made by the Group to advance the interests of middle-income countries within the United Nations system.

40. The Group wished to highlight three issues. The United Nations development system should elaborate a comprehensive, system-wide and long-term strategy to facilitate sustainable development through the provision of coordinated support for middle-income countries. The access of middle-income countries to development financing and climate finance needed to be increased and facilitated. A move towards multidimensional criteria that went beyond income per capita was key to understanding the specific challenges and potential of each developing country, and was the only way to ensure that no one was left behind.

41. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that looming deadlines for internationally agreed commitments, an inadequate international response to the global climate emergency and critical macroeconomic imbalances provided the backdrop for the Committee's deliberations. The sustainable development of small island developing States was threatened by high debt burdens, restricted access to concessional finance, a susceptibility to environmental and economic shocks, and a lack of resources to meet those and other challenges.

42. CARICOM was fully committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and was redoubling its efforts in areas including poverty, education and health care to that end. To overcome the challenges to achieving the Goals, the ability of developing countries to secure the means of implementation and operationalize national sustainable development plans would be critical, and would require partnership within the international community, including by engaging with civil society, the private sector, regional organizations and subnational governments and local administrative bodies. Given the complementarity between the Goals and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), the United Nations system should systematically reinforce the Pathway to ensure that the risks and challenges confronting small island developing States were adequately addressed.

43. The ability of CARICOM States to participate in the global financial system was under threat, in particular due to the de-risking policies of correspondent banks, the blacklisting of some CARICOM members by

the European Union and the consequences of graduation – as middle-income States – from access to multilateral concessional resources. Those challenges exacerbated critical financing gaps and needed to be addressed in order to mobilize adequate resources to attain the Goals and avoid the erosion of progress already achieved. The classification system used by international financial institutions was outdated and overly reliant on per capita income as a measure of development. CARICOM had called for a multidimensional approach to assessing poverty and development levels that took into account structural gaps and inequalities within and between countries. Due consideration should be given to use of a vulnerability index, while taking into account national priorities and circumstances. Graduation forced countries to borrow at commercial rates, which exacerbated debt burdens and ultimately reduced fiscal and policy space. CARICOM States continued to require access to concessional multilateral funding and ODA for vital public investment and to achieve the Goals and nationally determined contributions.

44. The impacts of climate change presented another instance in which circumstances not of its making threatened to destabilize CARICOM. While meaningful progress had been made in the region on the nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, the failure of the international community to take collective action was a cause of concern. The magnitude and urgency of the situation had been highlighted by the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius, while the havoc wreaked on the islands of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and the Bahamas in 2017 and 2019 showed the risk to sustainable development of climate-related events. While climate action in CARICOM was hindered by limitations on the mobilization of climate finance, reducing the level of disaster risk exposure also depended on CARICOM members' ability to make better use of ex ante resilience building and State contingency debt instruments in order to better manage public debt. He appealed to the multilateral development banks to expand the scale of their climate finance undertakings, including through direct and co-finance investments in projects in developing countries. CARICOM looked forward to the realization, particularly with regard to adaptation and resilience building, of the announcements made and initiatives launched at the Climate Action Summit 2019.

45. **Ms. Young** (Belize), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that decisive and ambitious action was urgently needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Committee would play a critical

role in developing the mix of political signalling, policy guidance and institutional action at all levels that would set the pace for the United Nations response to that urgent task. The Samoa Pathway presented a blueprint for sustainable development for the Alliance, while the political declaration adopted at the high-level political forum on sustainable development set out the key areas to accelerate action on sustainable development in small island developing States. Capitalizing on progress made on the Samoa Pathway could help to garner progress for the interrelated 2030 Agenda, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement.

46. Despite progress, small island developing States remained dependent on limited natural resources, experienced persistent social fissures and had suffered irreversible impacts from climate change. Economic growth was slow and inconsistent, with most small island developing States failing to meet the 7 per cent GDP growth target under Sustainable Development Goal 8. Despite efforts to do as the international community asked, some small island developing States had made less progress than countries in other vulnerable groups, or had even regressed in economic terms. Economic growth had been affected by the negative impacts of external shocks, while challenges to development included the stagnation of ODA, unsustainable external debt levels that were exacerbated by the need to borrow for disaster recovery, structural constraints and low savings rates.

47. The Alliance sought a system responsive to its needs that did not leave it unable to access resources or to shoulder burdens that it did not create, in keeping with the international commitments to small island developing States, endorsed by the General Assembly, which were yet to be implemented. The international community must reflect critically on the well-known issues facing small island developing States and act earnestly and with haste. The following were core areas of action for the Committee: separating the cycle of extreme events from the attendant high debt in order to sustain economic gains and build the resilience of islands and low-lying coastal States; calling for urgent, integrated action to stem biodiversity loss and decelerate greenhouse gas emissions through investment in low-emission climate-resilient pathways for 1.5 degrees Celsius; revisiting the terms of access to grant and concessional finance for small island developing States; addressing data capacity gaps and developing a monitoring and evaluation framework to support evidence-based decision-making; and retrofitting the multi-country offices and orienting regional

commissions for greater gains on the ground with steady support from the United Nations system.

48. **Mr. Kapambwe** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that complex and interrelated challenges threatened current and future progress in promoting development and stability and called for collective problem solving through multilateral processes and institutions. The Committee must build on the momentum of the past week's high-level events.

49. Sustainable development was a priority for the African Group as the only way to address both underdevelopment and environmental degradation. The tools and mechanisms of sustainable development needed to be strengthened, however, particularly with regard to technology transfer, funding and private investment mobilization. The fact that the international community was not on track to meet Sustainable Development Goal 1 was a cause of concern; the Committee should promote measures to help States eliminate poverty. For African countries, those measures should increase technical and financial capacity and mobilize foreign and domestic resources. The Committee should include in its work action to stem illicit financial flows, which sapped domestic resources and eroded public trust, as a crucial component of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

50. The significant and disproportionate impact of climate change on African countries, despite their minimal contribution to the phenomenon, was a cause of deep concern and threatened their ability to pursue sustainable development and eliminate poverty. Desertification, lack of access to energy and land degradation in Africa deserved particular attention, including continued support for initiatives to enhance agricultural resilience and boost access to sustainable energy, with a view to improving energy-smart agrifood systems and taking advantage of the relationship between sustainable energy production, agriculture and water management to achieve food security on the African continent. The risk of severe harm from climate change was increasing as the international community failed to take the necessary action to stem its drivers. The Committee's work must, therefore, reflect the urgency of responding to climate change and support measures to turn climate goals into reality. The language of resolutions on protection of the global climate, disaster risk reduction and desertification should also reflect the need for immediate and ambitious climate action.

51. The goals of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty would fail without access to the

required financial resources. The lack of adequate funding and financing was an issue of particular concern to the African Group, especially with respect to the continuing decrease in ODA. Many of the challenges faced, in particular environmental degradation and climate change, could not wait.

52. **Mr. Prasad** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States, said that he acknowledged the ongoing efforts to reform the United Nations development system to make it more effective, coherent and fit for purpose in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and supported the recommendation to establish a multi-country office in the Northern Pacific. Innovative solutions were needed to development challenges, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development had provided a good starting point to reinvigorate and re-evaluate the approach to intractable development issues. The Committee played a critical role in the United Nations development agenda and finding solutions to development challenges, while the revitalization of the General Assembly would reform the United Nations system as a whole. General Assembly resolution [73/341](#) would be useful to enhance synergies and coherence by addressing gaps, overlaps and duplication in the agendas of the General Assembly, its Second and Third Committees and the Economic and Social Council. The Pacific small island developing States offered their continuous support to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly in ensuring a successful revitalization process.

53. Climate change remained the biggest threat to Pacific small island developing States. The interrelated Sustainable Development Goals were all impacted by the deepening climate crisis that threatened their achievement and the very existence of Pacific small island developing States. The cross-cutting nature of the climate crisis should be recognized as its impact on migration, food security and sea levels gave rise to issues of sovereignty and jurisdiction that could lead to serious global security issues. The United Nations system must recognize those threats and respond with the required urgency. Since, in the interests of a stable climate, healthy oceans must be at the heart of the United Nations climate change negotiations, the decision by Chile to host a “blue” Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was therefore commendable. Access to predictable and adequate climate financing was important to investment in communities, institutions and resilient infrastructure. Greater ambition would start with living up to ODA commitments and replenishing the Green Climate Fund. Access criteria should consider

vulnerability to the effects of the climate crisis and natural disasters in order to ensure that the most vulnerable were not disadvantaged by procedures.

54. He reaffirmed the commitment of Pacific small island developing States to universality and to the most vulnerable, as noted in General Assembly resolution [73/228](#) on follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway and Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. In the light of the political declaration of the first midterm review of the Samoa Pathway, stronger collaboration with developed partners and the private sector were needed to fully realize the purpose and ambition of the Samoa Pathway. Financing for development remained a priority for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Agenda items 17 and 18 would help to address some of the seemingly intractable financial challenges. Genuine, durable and imaginative partnerships that met the needs of communities and reflected national priorities were needed. The geographic and economic vulnerabilities of Pacific small island developing States meant that solutions needed to be tailored and grounded in recognition of those unique circumstances. The outcome document of the fourth Economic and Social Council forum on financing development follow-up provided further details in that regard.

55. The Pacific small island developing States reiterated their commitment to sustaining the health, productivity and resilience of the oceans. A number of ocean-related processes would take place in 2020, including the second United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and the launch of the International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Oceans remained important to the work of the Committee and to the sustainable development of all small island developing States.

56. **Mr. Gonzato** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the ambitious sustainable development agenda contained in the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement should guide policy and action in countries at all stages of their development and should also steer the Committee in its work, in tandem with the pursuit of ambitious reform of the United Nations, including its

development system. The United Nations needed to be fit for purpose to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Delivering on the 2030 Agenda was a collective responsibility and the Committee must play a positive role in that pursuit. Achieving sustainable development meant facing formidable challenges and fundamentally shifting to a more inclusive and sustainable growth model, in order to leave no one behind. The current session's theme of inclusive societies based on new economic models and sustainable use of natural resources was therefore timely. The urgent need for a just transition to a green and inclusive economy that decoupled economic growth from resource use and respected planetary boundaries could be supported by the "circular economy" model.

57. The European Union attached great importance to the Committee delivering on its potential and was eager to move forward on revitalization. The proposal to convene an informal working group to consider the Committee's working methods was welcome and the European Union would engage constructively in that working group.

58. Given the large number of resolutions traditionally submitted to the Committee and the pending agreement on the reform of its agenda, the efficient conduct of business was crucial and efforts in that regard would continue to be supported. The announcement on the conduct and organization of work, specifically with regard to respecting working hours and the deadlines for the introduction of resolutions, and ensuring concise, focused and action-oriented resolutions and timely conclusion of negotiations was welcome.

59. The European Union would support measures to streamline the official work of the Committee, and accordingly did not intend to speak in the debates on specific agenda items, whose elimination should be considered as part of the revitalization process. The European Union would continue to seek support to ensure respect for rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly. While each member was entitled to present a draft resolution for the consideration of the General Assembly, the Committee should focus on rationalizing its work and maintaining resolutions that were relevant to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The European Union would, where deemed necessary to achieve consensus, request that draft resolutions that were submitted late should be referred to a future session.

60. Human rights must remain at the core of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which was people and planet-centred, gender transformative and strongly grounded in international human rights law. The

linkages between sustainable development, human rights, humanitarian action, conflict prevention and peacebuilding should be underlined, and a more integrated approach taken. The European Union remained committed to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and would work to eradicate gender discrimination and inequality through the work of the Committee and beyond. Sustainable and inclusive growth would require the engagement of all stakeholders and a commitment to multilateralism and a rules-based global order with the United Nations at its core.

61. Climate change constituted one of the greatest challenges to achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty and inequality. The Climate Action Summit 2019 had demonstrated the need for a green and inclusive economy with continuous improvement in living standards and well-being without depleting natural resources, poisoning the environment or spurring climate change. It had shown that, in order to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, greater mobilization was both needed and possible, that efforts should focus equally on mitigation and adaptation, and that nationally determined contributions should be stepped up, as agreed. The Committee's biodiversity protection and restoration efforts should be boosted, including by striving for zero pollution, transforming the food system, using more clean energy and improving energy efficiency.

62. It was made clear at the high-level dialogue on financing for development that the full range of financial and non-financial sources would be needed to implement the 2030 Agenda and address different partners' financing challenges. The European Union tailored its policy and financing mix to different partner countries and continued to be the world's largest provider of ODA, while also using development funding to leverage major private investment. The Committee should redouble its efforts to improve countries' capacity to operate in a complex financial landscape, including by reforming domestic revenue mobilization, strengthening international tax cooperation and the fight against illicit financial flows, improving the management of public finances and supporting a "collect more, spend better" approach and the use of digital technology to fight corruption.

63. **Mr. Hawke** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda was a collective responsibility. Despite progress, inequality, particularly gender inequality, persisted among and within countries, too many people were living in hunger and climate change and biodiversity loss were accelerating. Attention must

remain on fulfilling the 2030 Agenda, not on renegotiating what had already been agreed.

64. The Committee should focus on the four core goals of achieving gender equality, leaving no one behind, combating the impacts of climate change and strengthening the means of implementation. The advancement of gender equality and elimination of stigma and discrimination must be at the heart of the Committee's work. Poverty could not be eradicated and equality would not be achieved unless women and girls were treated equally to men and boys; beyond the economic loss, it was a basic rights issue.

65. In order to leave no one behind, special attention should be paid to the needs of least developed countries, the unique challenges faced by small island developing States – building on the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway – and the structural challenges for economically disadvantaged landlocked developing countries. Inclusion and full participation should be promoted, including for persons with disabilities, who were underrepresented in development efforts. The barriers faced by indigenous peoples should be recognized and broken down. Prosperity and equal opportunity, achieved through decent jobs and inclusive growth, were essential to maintaining international peace and security.

66. Climate change presented the biggest single threat to sustainable development everywhere and disproportionately impacted the poorest and most vulnerable, while small island developing States and least developed countries were the most vulnerable to climate risks. The international community needed to work together to combat the threat of climate change, which was why Canada, Australia and New Zealand were committed to preserving the ambition of the Paris Agreement.

67. International cooperation was also needed to strengthen the means of implementation, as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in order to realize shared objectives. Enough capital existed globally to close the financing gap, but silos must be broken down, new partnerships forged and engagement sought with all levels of government, civil society, academia and the private sector. A progressive trade agenda should be pursued and trade liberalization should be promoted to ensure that the benefits of free trade were enjoyed by all.

68. The Committee could contribute to those goals by remaining focused and pursuing consensus-based outcomes. To that end, Canada, Australia and New Zealand remained committed to more efficient and effective working methods. Time was needed to analyse

and discuss each resolution in detail within standard working hours. He welcomed the commitment to revitalization of the work of the General Assembly and the creation of an informal open-ended working group. The Committee needed to fill gaps, minimize overlaps and reduce duplication, including by eliminating agenda items or considering them biennially or in clusters.

69. **Mr. Dapkiunas** (Belarus) said that, four years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the global development situation left much to be desired. The global economic situation was worrying; growth was slowing, trade tensions were rising and capital flows were less stable, all against the background of a fragile financial system and growing debt. The absence of geopolitical stability was also a serious cause of concern for the economy. In that context, the Committee, as a multilateral platform, must be strengthened. The Sustainable Development Goals were a source of guidance to set the Committee's priorities and boost the practical outcomes of its work.

70. As an instrument for achieving the Goals, international trade must remain a priority. Urgent and effective measures were needed to end the practice of applying measures of unilateral economic coercion. Only inclusive trade based on equality, mutual respect and transparency could help to achieve the Goals.

71. In that connection, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) played an important coordinating role, under the auspices of the United Nations system, in the consideration of trade and development issues and related questions, and its analytical work and exchange of experience was highly sought by States. He welcomed the attention afforded by UNCTAD to the problems of middle-income countries.

72. The promise to leave no one behind should not only be applied to individuals and groups of people, but to States and groups of States. The inclusion of all groups of States was not always ensured by the United Nations. Although the problems and opportunities of sustainable development for middle-income countries were well known, they were the only group without a policy document on cooperation with the United Nations. He called for the development of a United Nations strategy on cooperation with middle-income countries, in order to ensure successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

73. The Committee should study the possibilities of new technologies and more actively provide technical support and expertise to States to help digital transformation become a powerful accelerator to achieve the Goals. Information and communications technology should be addressed as part of the broader

topic of access to technology for sustainable development. The private sector could provide financial resources and technology, while the United Nations should deepen and expand the partnerships needed to achieve the Goals.

74. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda required partnerships and the engagement of civil society at all levels; in Belarus, efforts to achieve the Goals had become a consolidating factor for all partners, including State bodies, civil society, business and academia. Given the importance of partnership, the first national forum on sustainable development and the first regional forum on sustainable development for Europe and Central Asia had been held in Belarus in 2019, and a forum on achieving the Goals in the Eurasian Economic Union was planned to take place in the next six months.

75. **Mr. Jamiru** (Sierra Leone) said that the momentum garnered during the high-level week of the General Assembly should be translated into tangible outcomes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address the effects of climate change. Sierra Leone remained committed to the full implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and sought to sustain the gains made on the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to graduating from the least developed countries. He welcomed progress through the entry into operation of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and trade and investment promotion regimes for least developed countries, alongside the graduation of some least developed countries.

76. To develop human capital and address economic diversification and infrastructure, his Government had made natural resources a critical pillar of economic growth, and invited strategic partnerships for investment in the extractive industries, agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and services. While achievements in the infrastructure sector contributed to economic growth and thus to sustainable development, international public finance must play an important role in complementing the efforts of least developed countries to mobilize domestic public resources in line with Goal 17.

77. The decline of ODA, which remained a key source of international financing for least developed countries, was alarming. He urged development partners to fulfil their ODA commitments to least developed countries, as set out in the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Istanbul Programme of Action. Further support was also needed for aid for trade, financing for development, technology transfer, capacity-building and addressing climate change vulnerabilities in order to reach agreed milestones.

78. As Chair of the Group of Seven Plus, Sierra Leone wished to emphasize that least developed countries in fragile situations required special measures that addressed their specific context. Development partners needed to understand the unique challenges of development in fragile contexts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. His Government had adopted measures to exit fragility and lay the foundation for medium and long-term development. A development finance assessment had highlighted potential public and private financing options and strategic cooperation for the Goals, while partnerships with stakeholders were being consolidated and statistical systems and public sector performance were advancing.

79. The second voluntary national review report, presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, had indicated progress towards the Goals, particularly Goals 4 and 16, since education and justice were key areas of focus for the national development agenda. Government policies to allocate funding to the education sector and finance free quality education had provided all students with access to improved services free of charge and had boosted school enrolment rates, including for children with disabilities. With respect to Goal 16, Sierra Leone had hosted the second 16+ Forum Annual Showcase and the first technical consultation on Goal 16 for Anglophone African countries in 2018. Despite the challenges of delivering the Goals, Sierra Leone was committed to consolidating the recognized progress achieved in macroeconomic stability and growth.

80. **Mr. Stanislavov** (Russian Federation) said that, at the recent high-level meetings on climate change, financing for development, health care and the Samoa Pathway, additional measures had been planned to ensure breakthroughs in the social, economic, financial and environmental fields. The joint work on those breakthroughs should be continued at the United Nations and in other forums, particularly under the framework of the Group of 20.

81. Uncertainty in the global economy, including volatility in the financial and commodity markets and disbalance and inequality in the development of countries and regions, against a background of persistent conflict, climate change, illegal migration and swift urbanization undermined the achievement of stable global growth, and therefore of the Sustainable Development Goals. The dividing lines in the global economy were multiplying and WTO norms were being replaced by temporary rules with geopolitical subtexts: unfair competition, protectionism, trade wars and unilateral sanctions. That led to a fragmented global economy and deprived businesses of predictability. It

was therefore vital to strengthen the multilateral regulation of trade by protecting and consolidating the universal, open, non-discriminatory and just trade system under the framework of WTO. The Russian Federation welcomed thoughtful initiatives for the balanced reform and modernization of WTO and stood ready to work on those with partners, based on inclusiveness and transparency.

82. Major progress on financing for development could be achieved by mobilizing and rationalizing the use of domestic resources, primarily through effective taxation. International cooperation should be developed to combat tax evasion and the erosion of the tax base through a toolkit developed by the Group of 20 and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The international legal regime for returning criminal assets should be strengthened; an effective, transparent and multilateral mechanism should be created using the capabilities of the United Nations and the Group of 20, based on the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Given insufficient progress on systemic development funding issues, further reform efforts were needed to boost the representation of developing countries in the governing structures of the Bretton Woods Institutions. Focus should remain on the interests and needs of least developed countries, and the interests of middle-income countries should be taken into account. Leading international development banks must work in the interests of the most vulnerable States, including those in post-conflict recovery, and demonstrate an equitable and non-discriminatory approach.

83. The Russian Federation was increasing its contribution to sustainable development through socioeconomic and humanitarian projects in different regions, including in the spheres of education and health care, and participation in United Nations funds and programmes was being expanded. Work was carried out through bilateral and multilateral channels and included debt relief. Furthermore, the Russian Federation was a reliable and responsible participant in the international climate process. In September 2019, his Government had decided to accede to the Paris Agreement, and a national adaptation plan for the economy would be developed in order to implement it.

84. Integration processes were important instruments for economic growth – the Eurasian Economic Union had strengthened cooperation among its members to develop and adapt national economies in the face of a changing global economic situation. Other associations played an increasing role in the implementation of the

2030 Agenda; Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization were among those in which the Russian Federation participated, and for which it would act as Chair in 2020.

85. He had closely following the reform of the United Nations development system and considered that savings from reform would provide funding for the renewed resident coordinator system. Improving the Committee's working methods could help to bring results for the many important issues before it. His Government stood ready to support that work, guided by the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions of the General Assembly on its revitalization.

86. **Ms. Fisher-Tsin** (Israel) said that the current session of the Committee was an opportunity to highlight development issues that needed global attention and put forward action-oriented proposals to better implement the 2030 Agenda. The latest data on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals presented a mixed picture as, despite progress on maternal and child mortality and access to electricity, there was a rise in hunger and the extinction of species. Developed and developing countries both had crucial roles in implementing the 2030 Agenda; decisive action was needed and difficult decisions could not be left to another session or generation.

87. Israel would present its biennial draft resolution on agricultural technology for sustainable development – a topic that was more relevant than ever – at the present session. The draft resolution highlighted several new areas, including the importance of new and innovative technologies to spur youth employment in the sector, energy-smart food systems and efficient water management. Innovative financing was also covered. The draft resolution focused on cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality, promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships and building resilience, that were important to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The rising global population and impact of climate change meant that it was important to seek ways to produce more with less.

88. Profound change at the United Nations could start, in 2019, with the Committee. The Committee should be more efficient and consider at each step whether its work was closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda and how its functioning could be streamlined. Its work should be re-evaluated and efforts directed towards outcomes that would yield tangible results. Political ploys that did not bring the achievement of objectives closer should be rejected; wasting time and resources hurt those who truly needed attention. In the spirit of the coming Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, she suggested that the

Committee should examine its past conduct of business and pledge to better to serve those who were furthest behind.

89. **Mr. Kim In Ryong** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the 2030 Agenda reflected humanity's common desire to build a world of equality, peace and prosperity. A peaceful environment was vital to attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Socioeconomic development was suffering due to political instability and the escalation of tensions in various countries and regions. In order to foster a peaceful environment, any attempt to destroy global peace and security or check the independent development of sovereign States should not be allowed. The extent of manoeuvres by a specific country to put a brake on the independent development and mutual cooperation of countries was made clear in its application of sanctions to 70 countries.

90. Attainment of the Goals required the complete exercise of sovereignty over countries' economic activities and the prohibition of the unilateral application of economic, financial and trade measures that ran counter to the Charter of the United Nations. Arbitrariness and unilateralism had a negative impact on global peace and security and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Concerted efforts should be made to strengthen independent development and mutual collaboration.

91. A fair international economic order, based on justice, equality and impartiality, was also needed to achieve the Goals. Since the current international financial and trade system was dominated by a few privileged countries, international cooperation could not truly contribute to the development of developing countries, as any cooperation would end in political domination and subordination. The trend in regional integration processes and the expansion of trade relations between countries based on national currencies were an effective means of establishing a new and fair international economic order.

92. Amidst an historic current towards peace on the Korean Peninsula, his country's efforts to prevent war and focus on peaceful socialist construction would contribute to attaining the Goals, and his country's goals for constructing a socialist power fully conformed with the 2030 Agenda.

93. **Mr. Syihab** (Indonesia) said that the Committee's work was being conducted against a backdrop of modest economic growth and amplified global uncertainty and trade tensions. Progress on achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was uneven and the world was not on track to slow global warming. The

political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway, the Climate Action Summit 2019 and the high-level dialogue on financing for development provided guidance for the Committee's work, which would require innovative methods and enhanced partnerships.

94. The eradication of multidimensional poverty should remain the highest priority. The Committee's mission was to seek inclusive, equitable, balanced and stable development-oriented economic approaches, and innovative ways of expanding employment opportunities to achieve the Goals. Indonesia would therefore submit a draft resolution on holding the year of creative economy for sustainable development in 2021. Disparities should be addressed, in particular, by providing investment and infrastructure for those in rural and remote areas.

95. The political momentum of the Climate Action Summit 2019 and the midterm review of the Samoa Pathway must be sustained to achieve the Goals and implement the Paris Agreement. Success depended on greater international cooperation, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing. Indonesia was committed to developing its partnerships with small island developing States to address common challenges such as climate change, building resilience against natural disasters and strengthening disaster management.

96. Investment for the Goals was below the required level. The Committee should discuss how to encourage achievement of the 0.7 per cent target for ODA. Innovative financing should be encouraged, including blended financing, financial inclusion and religious and social financing, such as Indonesian "green sukuk".

97. Disaster risk reduction must be integrated in policies, strategies, regulations and financing across all sectors. Policy and programme coherence across disaster risk reduction strategies, national climate change adaptation plans and nationally determined contributions should be in place by 2020. Policy coherence should be ensured in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, and links established between sustainable development strategies and integrated national financing frameworks. The Committee should focus on the means of implementation, financing technology transfer and scaling up efforts to achieve its goals.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.