



General Assembly

Seventy-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
17 December 2019

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 11th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 14 October 2019, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Al-Kuwari (Vice-Chair) (Qatar)
later: Ms. Angelova (Vice-Chair) (Bulgaria)

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In the absence of Mr. Niang (Senegal), Mr. Al-Kuwari (Qatar), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 19: Sustainable development

(continued) (A/74/208, A/74/216, A/74/216/Add.1, A/74/225, A/74/238 and A/74/242)

- (a) **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** (continued) (A/74/72-E/2019/13 and A/74/204)
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- (h) **Education for sustainable development** (continued) (A/74/258)
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- (j) **Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all** (continued) (A/74/265)
- (k) **Combating sand and dust storms** (continued) (A/74/263)
- (l) **Sustainable mountain development** (continued) (A/74/209)

1. **Mr. Glaesser** (Director of Sustainable Development of Tourism, World Tourism Organization),

speaking in a recorded message to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America (A/74/208), said that the report had been submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/214 and provided an update on the efforts of Central American States to implement programmes to promote and enhance sustainable tourism and sustainable development in its three dimensions.

2. Having drawn attention to the relevant conclusions and recommendations contained in the report, he suggested changing the reporting frequency to five years instead of two years as the current review frequency was too high. He wished to recall that, every other year, the World Tourism Organization was already producing a comprehensive global sustainable development report, entitled "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection". That report provided timely and relevant analysis of major trends and developments globally and across regions. The present report under consideration was far more limited in its geographical scope.

3. **Mr. Kabba** (Sierra Leone) said that his country had an unwavering commitment to fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a balanced and integrated manner. However, least developed countries in Africa such as Sierra Leone were at risk of not achieving the Sustainable Development Goals because of the challenges they faced, including a lack of adequate financing, heightened public debt and the effects of climate change. As a country highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly floods and mudslides, Sierra Leone called for urgent action to implement the Paris Agreement.

4. While the achievement of all 17 Goals was important, Sierra Leone had prioritized Goal 4 on education and Goal 16 on justice and strong institutions. The Government had also aligned all the Goals with the eight pillars of its national development plan, which was focused on education for development.

5. Sierra Leone was eager to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies and communities, both at the national and international levels. Accordingly, the Government was committed to developing access to justice strategies and ensuring that its national indicators were aligned with global ones.

6. **Mr. Nahid** (Bangladesh) said that the extreme vulnerability of his country to climate change had made its people even more determined to face the challenge of that phenomenon. At the national level, climate actions and disaster management had been mainstreamed into sustainable development strategies. Over 1 per cent of

gross domestic product was being used to tackle climate change and \$450 million had been allocated for adaptation and mitigation purposes. For example, the Government was investing in making the agriculture sector more resilient, including through the development of several drought-resistant crops, tree coverage would be increased from 22 per cent to 24 per cent in the next five years and a project worth \$50 million was being implemented for the conservation of the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest. The Government had also invested heavily in flood management, solar energy production, coastal polders, cyclone and flood shelters, and in raising roads and highways above the flood level. Furthermore, state-of-the-art warning systems had been developed for floods, cyclones and storm surges, and community-based disaster preparedness was now being expanded.

7. A call for real action to halt climate change had been heard from world leaders at the recent Climate Action Summit 2019. Greater political will was now needed across the globe to accelerate the transition towards the green economy, green technology and a green planet.

8. **Mr. Naumkin** (Russian Federation) said that it would not be possible to end poverty, the main Sustainable Development Goal, without addressing other key areas of the 2030 Agenda, one of which was the provision of electricity. According to forecasts, global demand for electricity was set to increase by 25 per cent by 2040. As meeting that demand through renewable energy sources alone would not be realistic, fossil fuels would continue to play a prominent role. The energy sector must therefore adopt a balanced approach that promoted the development of both renewable and traditional sources of energy. In that context, the Committee should send a clear signal to the international community regarding the need for all types of energy. Such a balanced approach would make it possible to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in line with Goal 7.

9. Natural gas had an increasingly role to play in the energy mix, as reflected in various joint statements and outcome documents issued by the Group of 20. Expanding the use of natural gas in electricity generation and transport would help to reduce atmospheric pollution and could make a significant contribution to combating climate change. His delegation welcomed the efforts of regional bodies, including the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to boost the use of natural gas, including as engine fuel. Given the technological improvements and

increased level of safety at nuclear power plants, atomic energy also had untapped potential to provide energy while reducing the anthropogenic burden on the environment.

10. His delegation attached great importance to the combined efforts of States to reduce the volatility of global oil markets and establish an international energy policy that was based on a mutually beneficial, equal and pragmatic partnerships free from politically motivated methods of unfair competition.

11. The Russian Federation welcomed the outcome of the Climate Action Summit and the specific plans announced by States to combat and adapt to climate change. Progress in that area could only be made through joint and coordinated action, which was the reason why his country had acceded to the Paris Agreement, supported the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and called for practical support for the most vulnerable countries such as small island developing States.

12. **Ms. Nuran** (Indonesia) said that the Sustainable Development Goals had been mainstreamed into her Government's national developing plans. Notable achievements to date included inclusive and steady economic growth, significant improvement in universal education and bold climate actions. However, it would be important to accelerate actions to protect biodiversity, provide affordable and sustainable energy, and enhance capacity in disaster risk reduction. Against that backdrop, a key priority for Indonesia was building stronger global partnerships in order to close the financing gap for climate action under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement. In Indonesia, innovative partnerships had supported the Tropical Landscapes Financing Facility, the world's first sustainable land use bond for Indonesian projects.

13. Infrastructure investments and technology transfers were also crucial for providing universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. Indonesia aimed to achieve an almost 100 per cent electrification rate and was continuing its path towards energy transition by removing fossil fuel subsidies, implementing a mandatory biodiesel policy and building solar panels and wind turbines for rural and coastal communities. However, owing to the remote location of many rural dwellers, in order to leave no one behind it would be necessary to step up efforts, including through private sector financing, decentralized rural solutions and off-grid solutions.

14. Another priority for the Government was leveraging nature-based solutions and stronger actions

for climate mitigation and adaptation. For example, as part of its commitment to mainstreaming a long-term low carbon development strategy, no more new licences would be issued for exploration in primary natural forests and peatlands, 2 million hectares of peatlands had been restored and an additional 12 million hectares of degraded land would be restored by 2030. Indonesia also supported the livelihood of its coastal communities through the sustainable management of mangroves and peatlands.

15. **Ms. Micael** (Eritrea) said that her country was particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including desertification, land degradation and drought. Coordinated and sustained actions were needed at the national, regional and global levels to combat those phenomena. Policy measures in Eritrea included the ratification of environmental conventions and the elaboration of national strategies to achieve land degradation neutrality. Lessons learned in soil and water conservation in Eritrea had shown that sustainable resource-conserving techniques could be employed to bring degraded land back into production, improve yields and enhance resilience. However, strong partnerships would also be required as Governments alone could not tackle the extent of the problem.

16. To address the challenge of ensuring food security, Eritrea had mobilized grass-roots communities, women, students, civil society organizations, religious leaders and the army to work actively on soil and water conservation and afforestation activities. The construction of micro and macro dams had opened up opportunities to transform subsistence agricultural production to irrigated farming. Technology and innovations were useful tools to further increase productivity in a sustainable way.

17. At the regional level, Eritrea was 1 of the 10 countries engaged in the Great Green Wall initiative to halt the advancement of the Sahara Desert. The aim was to grow an 8,000 km green strip across the entire width of Africa.

18. **Ms. Leyva Regueira** (Cuba) said that there was a growing gap between North and South, and an increasing polarization of wealth. Unsustainable production and consumption patterns continued, and vast amounts of financial resources were being squandered on arms dealing and speculation. Against that backdrop, specific actions towards sustainable development must continue to be taken, on the basis of a just and equitable international order, inclusive and coherent policies, a revitalized global partnership, effective mobilization of financial resources, as well as capacity-building and technology transfers to benefit

developing countries. Moreover, developed countries must honour their historic commitments and responsibilities.

19. Leaving no one person or country behind entailed recognition and respect for a range of approaches, visions and models, decided upon by each respective country in the exercise of its right to self-determination, taking into account its national circumstances and priorities.

20. Cuba remained committed to the goals set out at the major United Nations conferences and summits on sustainable development in its three dimensions, and, in particular, to strengthening the mechanisms for the effective implementation, at all levels, of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway).

21. Referring to the impacts of global warming, she noted that the United States of America, a main polluter, had refused to join the international community towards fulfilling the Paris Agreement, hence undermining the very life of future generations and the survival of all species. She urged all States parties to the Paris Agreement to fulfil their obligations under it and to broaden its scope on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities.

22. The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States Government against Cuba for nearly six decades was the most unjust, severe and protracted system of unilateral sanctions ever applied against any country. It constituted a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of the Cuban people and was an act of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948. It violated the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and hindered international cooperation. Indeed, that hostile policy was the main obstacle to the development of Cuba and the Cuban people's enjoyment of all their human rights. It also hindered implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of its Goals and was the chief stumbling block to the development of economic, commercial and financial relations between Cuba and the United States as well as the rest of the world, owing to its extraterritorial nature, with damages reaching more than \$138.8 billion since the embargo was first imposed.

23. **Mr. Wong** (Singapore) said that his country had learned a number of lessons in the course of its sustainable development journey. One was about the need for Governments to take the lead and be active in catalysing durable change and green growth. In 2019, Singapore had become the first country in Southeast

Asia to implement an economy-wide carbon tax. To support its zero waste objectives, the Government had recently passed the Resource Sustainability Bill, which would hold large companies accountable for improving their waste management. However, for national policies to be effective, government initiatives must be supported by efforts from all stakeholders. A whole-of-society approach was therefore essential to drive a paradigm shift towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

24. A second lesson was about innovation and long-term strategic planning, which were key to overcoming natural constraints and adapting to unique national circumstances. For example, despite being one of the most water-stressed countries, Singapore had developed technology to recycle wastewater to produce ultraclean drinking water. In order to address the limited access to alternative sources of energy, Singapore was starting pilot projects to deploy floating solar panels on the country's reservoirs. To mitigate the space constraints for landfills, it was exploring technologies to recover incinerator ash as a foundation layer for building new roads.

25. A third lesson was that climate change was a global challenge that required effective international cooperation. The new Singapore Partnership for the Samoa Pathway would offer quality programmes to small island developing States, particularly on climate change and disaster risk reduction. The technical assistance package provided by Singapore would be extended until 2024 to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway for the next five years. It was only through partnerships that the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement would be achieved.

26. **Mr. Alnahdi** (Saudi Arabia) said that his Government remained committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda. The Saudi Vision 2030 plan was aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and included a number of job-creating megaprojects. The Saudi Arabian stock exchange had just achieved full inclusion on the emerging markets index and was a participant in the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative. At the national level, the strategy of diversifying the economy continued and, as competitiveness increased, the budget deficit dropped and non-oil exports rose. The Government continued to implement the Paris Agreement while stepping up its environmental conservation and pollution reduction measures. A number of sustainable development policies had been adopted, including programmes to increase sustainable energy, enhance energy efficiency and recycle waste. Programmes had also been established to improve the quality of education in order

to meet the needs of the labour market. His delegation looked forward to working with the United Nations and its strategic partners to achieve sustainable development at the national, regional and international levels in order to build a fairer and more inclusive world.

27. **Mr. Hajilari** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that it was the official position of his country that the 2030 Agenda was not a legally binding instrument and that any follow-up or review processes should be voluntary, country-led and in keeping with national policies and priorities. While national ownership remained key to achieving sustainable development, the Islamic Republic of Iran had embraced the positive elements of the social, economic and environmental goals agreed at the international level in recent decades.

28. In the context its efforts to combat climate change, the Islamic Republic of Iran was following a comprehensive low-carbon plan aimed at increasing energy efficiency and reducing pollution. Under the plan, by 2030 the country would mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions by 4 per cent compared to business as usual.

29. In the field of education, ending illiteracy and providing free public education up to secondary school had almost been fully achieved, the gender gap in education had been fully eliminated and new policies had been endorsed by the Supreme Leader to provide training to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors of the population. The Government was also providing schooling to some 500,000 refugee children throughout the country.

30. Against the backdrop of illegal and unprecedented sanctions imposed on his country by the United States of America, a strong and renewed commitment by the international community to multilateralism was essential. It must create an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in a spirit of global partnership and solidarity.

31. **Mr. Amin** (Afghanistan) said that the 2030 Agenda was the only universal hope for a prosperous, inclusive and equal world in which no one was left behind. Its implementation required strong collaboration among all Member States and stakeholders in order to fulfil their commitments. In that context, the Government had been working with the private sector, civil society, academia and development partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and had created an Executive Committee within the Office of the Chief Executive in order to coordinate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the highest policy level. Despite the challenges to peace, security and development in the country, the Government was

pursuing an integrated approach to self-reliance in such areas as agriculture, infrastructure, natural resources, human capital, private sector development and the economic empowerment of women.

32. Access to affordable, sustainable and modern energy played a key role in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. As both a least developed country and a landlocked developing country, Afghanistan needed more assistance in implementing measures to improve its access to energy.

33. Sustainable development could not be achieved without peace and security and there would be no lasting peace and security without sustainable development. In that regard, strengthening the nexus between peace, security and development should be a priority of the Committee's work and special attention should be given to conflict-affected countries, which continued to face large investment gaps affecting their ability to implement the 2030 Agenda. In order to prioritize those most in need and ensure that no one was left behind, more targeted approaches were needed to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in fragile States, including States in conflict and post-conflict situations.

34. **Mr. Al-Mansoori** (Qatar) said that multilateral action was needed to tackle the staggering challenge of climate change and prevent it from undermining progress in sustainable development. For its part, Qatar had pledged \$100 million at the Climate Action Summit 2019 to support the efforts of those countries suffering from the worst impacts of climate change, namely small island developing States and the least developed countries.

35. The Qatar National Vision 2030 set out the country's main social, economic and environmental goals in the context of sustainable development. At the multilateral level, Qatar had announced at the Doha Forum in 2018 that it would provide \$500 million to fund a number of United Nations programmes over the next few years for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in addition to providing a multi-year contribution of \$20 million to support the network of United Nations Development Programme accelerator laboratories for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Qatar remained committed to partnerships in support of sustainable development.

36. Providing opportunities for fair and equal access to education for all was one of the most powerful tools for the achievement of sustainable development. As education and employment were the key to building a better future, Qatar was focused on providing quality

education and training to millions of young people around the world.

37. **Ms. Shurbaji** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that her Government was committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda in a balanced and integrated manner. Despite the special circumstances facing Syria owing to the threat from terrorism, her country looked forward to working with the United Nations development system to meet its national needs. The Syrian Government aimed to move beyond humanitarian relief that addressed basic needs towards the achievement of sustainable development, economic recovery and national reconstruction. To that end, it was seeking to unleash the potential of the economy, to mobilize resources and to strengthen partnerships. That would entail building the capacity of institutions, reinforcing social justice and preparing the conditions for the return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

38. Tackling the challenges still impeding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would also require States to refrain from imposing political agendas that flew in the face of the Charter of the United Nations. Her Government called for an end to politicization and double standards, as well as attempts by certain Governments to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries. The imposition of unilateral coercive economic measures and the threat from terrorism were both impeding the achievement of economic, social and environmental development in Syria.

39. Lastly, the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores ([A/74/225](#)) showed the serious ramifications arising from repeated Israeli aggression. The occupying Power must be held accountable for the ongoing breach of its moral, legal and international responsibilities.

40. **Mr. Nwakudu** (Nigeria) said that his delegation was concerned that the world was not on track to achieve most of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, particularly those relating to inequalities, environmental challenges, poverty eradication, education and ending hunger. The international community must change its collective approach because business as usual would not deliver the desired results.

41. In that connection, Nigeria had adopted a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach that integrated the Goals into a coherent national policy framework. For example, a comprehensive institutional framework allowed for the national mainstreaming of the Goals, an interministerial committee coordinated the implementation of relevant programmes and each chamber of the National Assembly had established an oversight committee for the Goals. The Government

was using a national social investment programme to redistribute resources for the benefit of the poorest and most vulnerable members of society. The Government was also making it easier to access financial services and grant schemes.

42. Climate change was increasingly posing a fundamental threat to the existence of humanity. Nigeria had therefore been an active participant in the processes leading up to the Climate Action Summit and was working to ensure that the country met its national determined contributions. As a proactive approach to the Sendai Framework, Nigeria had established a national emergency management agency and a national centre for flood early warning systems.

43. Nigeria would continue to do its best to ensure that its educational curriculum, teaching methods, assessment techniques and accessibility arrangements resulted in individual and societal advancement in the priority areas of education for sustainable development.

44. While digital technologies had the potential to improve the sustainability of the global food and agricultural systems, it was important to ensure that appropriate biosafety frameworks were in place to control the potential risks associated with the use of genetically modified organisms.

45. **Ms. Ortez** (Honduras) said that despite considerable efforts over the past four years, the international community was not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and must therefore undertake a commitment to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. An effective strategy for financing for sustainable development required the mobilization of new and additional resources and sufficient official development assistance. While South-South and triangular cooperation had a particular role to play in building capacities and exchanging knowledge and best practices, they remained a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

46. Honduras was striving to overcome poverty and promote economic growth while combating climate change. The latter threatened to increase the country's vulnerabilities, undermine the progress achieved and seriously harm its development prospects. Land degradation, drought and the El Niño phenomenon had all taken a heavy toll on the country's food security situation in recent years. Unless mitigation and adaptation measures were taken, natural resources, quality of life and the very ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals would be critically affected. While Honduras had established a robust legal

framework to address climate change it must have access to additional financial resources.

47. **Mr. Zaki** (Maldives) said that rapid climate change had left a narrow window of opportunity to bring about transformative change. The international community must work together to accelerate action, in line with the Paris commitments, to ensure that the rise in global temperature remained below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Unless the current global trend was reversed, the attainment of many Sustainable Development Goals was under threat and the most vulnerable would be disproportionately affected.

48. As one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, Maldives was determined to overcome the challenges that it faced. To that end, the Government was reducing fossil fuels, investing in waste management, safe water and sanitation, and providing young people with the skills and support to contribute towards the nation's economic growth. It was also improving working to make governance mechanisms more innovative and aligned with technological advancements. Accordingly, at the Climate Action Summit 2019, the President of Maldives had presented a plan entitled "climate smart resilient islands", which sought to utilize natural solutions, promote innovation and leverage new technologies to build resilience.

49. Access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy was vital to the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals. While Maldives had achieved 100 per cent energy access, it needed to scale up the current rate of progress towards achieving Goal 7 by expanding the renewable energy sector, removing barriers to investment in that sector and promoting renewable energy technologies.

50. As a proud member of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, which served as a platform to find common disaster risk reduction solutions, Maldives called on the international community to take effective steps to reduce disaster risks and improve climate-resilient planning in line with the Sendai Framework. It also called for increased mobilization of resources for national data collection and management systems and further policy research on resilience.

51. **Ms. Siyanda** (Zambia) said that the Government had mainstreamed 86 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets into its seventh national development plan, the key aims of which included enhancing economic diversification, job creation and human development, and reducing poverty, vulnerability and development inequalities.

52. Her Government was resolved to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services for all. In that regard, it had been implementing a rural electrification programme to increase access to electricity for rural communities. Regulations had also been put in place to diversify the country's energy mix, accelerate private sector investment and promote the development of renewable energy sources in order to increase access to clean energy, including for cooking. Earlier in 2019, the first large-scale solar power plant in Zambia had been commissioned to connect to at least 30,000 households.

53. No one should have to choose between sending a child to work or school. The provision of free primary education and the reduction of secondary school fees were therefore key to increasing access to education for children from low-income families. School feeding programmes were another crucial component for keeping vulnerable learners in education. To date, 2,618 schools in 39 districts across the country had benefited from such programmes.

54. The Government was increasing the role of education for sustainable development by raising awareness about the new technologies that could be adapted to build disaster-resilient communities. It supported assistance from the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to promote education for sustainable development, including through knowledge sharing, standard setting, the exchange of best practices, data collection, research and study.

55. **Ms. Oropeza Acosta** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets would not be achieved unless urgent action was taken to combat the climate crisis. The world was approaching a critical point of no return. The Paris Agreement was inadequate to address that threat, especially if it was abandoned by the major emitters of greenhouse gases. Her delegation therefore welcomed the recent convening of the Climate Action Summit 2019.

56. Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production had severely impaired the planet's regenerative capacity and ability to function. Climate change and natural disasters, which unfortunately affected the poorest most of all, were some of the many symptoms of the imbalance between humanity and nature. A development model in harmony with nature must therefore be established in which human beings were no longer seen as the owners of natural resources but rather as part of a complex and delicately balanced shared environment.

57. In line with that vision, her Government was implementing the 2025 Patriotic Agenda, which aimed to eradicate extreme poverty, universalize basic services and promote national sovereignty in a number of key areas, including science and technology.

58. While great strides had been made to fulfil the goals of *buen vivir* (living well), the only way to promote sustainable development and a fair equilibrium between the economic, social and environmental needs of current and future generations was to establish policies, strategies and mechanisms that led to a lifestyle in harmony with nature.

59. **Ms. Intarajumpa** (Thailand) said that the Climate Action Summit 2019 had galvanized support for various stakeholders to accelerate ambitious commitments and her delegation looked forward to continuing that positive momentum at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Chile. Climate action should focus equally on mitigation and adaptation while fostering resilience and must be supported by means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technology development and the exchange of knowledge and best practices. In line with its commitments, Thailand was shifting towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient society. To meet its target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 to 25 per cent by 2030, Thailand had finalized its sectoral plans in the areas of energy, transport, industry and waste management.

60. Natural disasters continued to threaten hard-earned development gains around the world. As reducing disaster risk was a shared responsibility, countries should mainstream the Sendai Framework in their national development policies. For its part, Thailand had created an early warning network that spanned areas prone to natural disasters, including the threat from tsunamis.

61. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all was vital for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Through public-private partnerships, Thailand had invested in energy generation facilities and had expanded the power supply lines to every household and community in the country at an affordable price. Going forward, her Government would continue to prioritize the development of modern energy systems that maximized the potential of hydropower, solar energy and biomass and biogas for energy generation.

62. **Ms. Moldoisaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) said that her Government was working actively to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and had integrated key

elements of the 2030 Agenda into the national strategy for the development for the period 2018–2040. Kyrgyzstan would present its voluntary national review to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2020 and looked forward to assistance from the United Nations in the preparation of that important document.

63. Climate change was creating additional challenges to the achievement of the Goals, including in the form of natural disasters. Her country had therefore taken the strategically correct decision to adhere to the Paris Agreement and to implement the Sendai Framework.

64. Kyrgyzstan, along with other Central Asian countries, was actively endeavouring to avert the radioactive threat posed by uranium tailing dumps. The adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia and the holding of multilateral events on that issue had made a positive contribution to the development of environmental cooperation in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

65. Mountainous countries like Kyrgyzstan were facing specific obstacles to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition to the negative impact of climate change on such countries, their mountainous features obliged them to spend additional funds in order to develop their industrial, agricultural and transport infrastructures. Kyrgyzstan was actively promoting international initiatives aimed at drawing attention to issues related to sustainable mountain development, including the establishment of 11 December as World Mountain Day and the creation of the Group of Friends of Mountainous Countries, which currently consisted of 20 countries.

66. **Ms. Phommalangsy** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that more than 60 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators had been mainstreamed into the national socioeconomic development plan for 2016–2020 and the remaining indicators would be integrated into the subsequent plan for the period 2021–2025. Her country had successfully presented its first voluntary national review to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018 and workshops had been organized at central and provincial levels with a view to enhancing understanding of the Goals in all sectors of society. To ensure effective coordination of the Goals at the national level, focal points had also been established across line ministries and a steering committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, had been established.

67. Partnership played a critical role in supporting the effective achievement of the Goals. As such, her country continued to work with all development partners, United Nations agencies and international organizations through the round table process, which had become an effective platform to take stock of the Goals, provide practical policy recommendations and ensure sufficient resource mobilization. Challenges remained, however, including ensuring effective institutional coordination among different stakeholders and, most importantly, mobilizing sufficient funding, technological know-how and human-resource development for the attainment of the Goals.

68. *Ms. Angelova (Bulgaria), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

69. **Ms. Sok** (Cambodia) said that her Government had set a high priority on promoting inclusive and sustainable development. As a country vulnerable to climate change, Cambodia had a strong political will to combat that phenomenon and had done its utmost to respond to its challenges, despite limited resources and capacity. Given the cross-cutting implications of climate change, the issue must be addressed in a coherent, comprehensive and balanced manner. Developed countries should therefore expedite the provision of means of implementation, and collective action should focus on supporting the most vulnerable countries to build their resilience, strengthen their preparedness and increase their capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change. In that context, her delegation highly appreciated the recent convening of the Climate Action Summit 2019, which had demonstrated an increased recognition of the need to rapidly accelerate the measures taken. It looked forward to building on that momentum at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Chile.

70. The cost of ignoring climate change would far exceed the cost of taking action. Cambodia would work with all partners to transform the current climate crisis into a new opportunity for a greener, low-carbon, resilient, equitable, sustainable and knowledge-based economy.

71. **Ms. Petrocelli Rojas** (Panama) said that one of the most powerful driving forces for achieving sustainable development was education. Her delegation supported partnerships for exchanging experience and knowledge about sustainable development education among all stakeholders.

72. As one of the largest economic sectors, owing to the jobs that it created and the investment that it attracted, tourism could also make a decisive

contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, the tourism sector in Central America and the Caribbean had already been affected by the impact of climate change, particularly in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Efforts must therefore be redoubled to combat climate change, including an integrated policy approach to tourism. In that regard, her delegation looked forward to support from the Committee for the draft resolution entitled “Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America”, to be submitted by El Salvador on behalf of the Central American Integration System at the current session.

73. The implementation of the Sendai Framework was an integral part of international efforts to achieve sustainable development, given the increase in disaster risks to various sectors. International cooperation and support were also needed in the areas of capacity-building, technology transfer and data collection.

74. *Mr. Al-Kuwari (Qatar), Vice-Chair, resumed the Chair.*

75. **Ms. Gomes Monteiro** (Cabo Verde) said that sustainable development in all its dimensions was particularly important because it built resilience that made countries better equipped to manage and adapt to climate change. Resilience was critical for Cabo Verde, which stood to suffer disproportionate harm to its economy and society from such impacts as increased floods, drought and desertification. Mitigating those consequences diverted resources from other important sectors.

76. The Government of Cabo Verde remained committed to implementing the Paris Agreement and meeting the goals set out in its nationally determined contribution, which included key adaptation and mitigation measures. For example, the Government was increasing the renewable energy penetration rate of the electric grid, prioritizing water desalination, efficient water management and agricultural production, and strengthening reliance through reforestation. It had also created an emergency fund and an environmental fund. While her country was fully aware of its primary responsibility to tackle the challenges presented by climate change, it could not do so alone and needed the support of the international community.

77. Discussions in the Committee at the current session should focus on how to effectively overcome the climate-related challenges identified through specific mechanisms, policies and mechanisms related to technology transfer, capacity-building, increased economic competitiveness and enhanced resource mobilization. Draft resolutions related to disaster risk

reduction, the Samoa Pathway and protection of the global climate should include strong action-oriented language aimed at achieving concrete results.

78. **Ms. Uaiene** (Mozambique) said that, owing to its geographical location, Mozambique was considered one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. Recognizing that challenging reality, the Government’s development plan for the period 2015–2019 outlined the nation’s disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation policies. Moreover, the Government was also implementing a disaster risk reduction master plan to integrate that aspect into its development plan. The master plan focused, inter alia, on improving understanding of disaster risk at all levels; strengthening public and private participation in disaster risk reduction; consolidating public investment and territorial planning; strengthening response, recovery and reconstruction efforts; and establishing partnerships through international cooperation. The master plan was being implemented in line with the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals.

79. Mozambique was facing multidimensional challenges, such as the two extremely powerful tropical cyclones that had devastated large areas of the country in March and April 2019, causing more than 700 deaths. In response, the Government had approved an annual comprehensive contingency plan for disaster risk management and the provision of humanitarian aid, among other measures.

80. The least developed countries had special needs in view of their high vulnerability to climate change, which often greatly exceeded their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. Mozambique was therefore grateful for the support provided by the international community to date. However, it was still facing the challenge of replacing damaged infrastructure and providing a stable, secure environment for those affected. Her delegation therefore called on all stakeholders to enhance their partnership assistance.

81. **Mr. Xu Zhongsheng** (China) said that the 2030 Agenda had set the stage for global sustainable development and had written a new chapter in global development cooperation. The international community should enhance its sense of urgency and step up efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the provision of assistance to developing countries in eradicating poverty and hunger. For its part, the Committee should take practical steps at the current session to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensure that no one was left behind.

82. At the national level, countries should incorporate the 2030 Agenda into their development strategies in order to achieve balanced economic, social and environmental development that improved the livelihood and well-being of their people. At the international level, steps should be taken to strengthen development partnerships and consolidate global development cooperation, with North-South cooperation as the main channel for development aid and South-South cooperation as a supplement thereto. Developed countries should earnestly fulfil their official development assistance commitments and help developing countries to improve their own development capacities and levels of development.

83. The United Nations should play a greater role in implementing the 2030 Agenda. It should provide policy guidance, facilitate overall coordination and offer assistance to relevant international organizations and multilateral mechanisms so that they could take more effective measures and create synergies to promote global development cooperation.

84. China was firmly committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and had provided strong support to other developing countries through, inter alia, South-South cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative. As an active promoter of global development, China would continue to work towards building a better future for the Chinese people and all of humanity.

85. **Mr. Poudel Chhetri** (Nepal) said that mainstreaming the three pillars of sustainable development into national plans and policies at all levels was critical. All nations must strive to deliver on the promises made in 2015 and no amount of eloquence could compensate for a lack of action. The Climate Action Summit 2019 had driven home a message of urgency to save the planet and the future of humanity.

86. As a country with many snow-capped mountains, Nepal had been deeply impacted by climate-induced disasters. His delegation attached high importance to sustainable mountain development and continued to highlight the organic link between mountains and oceans. Glacier melt would be detrimental to millions of mountain dwellers and to the more than billion people living downstream of mountains. Hence the need to effectively implement the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework in synergy with the 2030 Agenda, with all stakeholders on board.

87. Nepal was focused on increasing its supply of clean and renewable energy and was prioritizing the transformation of its economy with a view to graduating from the category of least developed country. To ensure

a smooth transition, it looked forward to enhanced, predictable and continued support from the international community in that endeavour.

88. **Ms. Pejanović Đurišić** (Montenegro) said that countries had a common responsibility to achieve inclusive sustainable development and the Committee should play an important role in accelerating action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Montenegro had been one of the first countries to mainstream the Goals through a national strategy for sustainable development. It was also among the first countries to have presented a voluntary national review in 2016.

89. Significant progress had been made by Montenegro on almost all of the Goals. In addition to the 232 sustainable development indicators established by the Statistical Commission and integrated into the national strategy, a group of 291 national indicators had been added to the strategy. Based on those indicators, a model had been devised to increase productivity and reduce the domestic consumption of materials by 20 per cent by 2020, compared to the average for 2005–2012. To reduce developmental pressures, the Government was particularly focused on conserving water and forest resources and had placed a moratorium on the exploitation of sand and gravel from river basins.

90. As a result of investment in energy efficiency and the transfer of technological solutions, the share of energy from renewable sources was growing steadily in Montenegro. In 2016, a total of 41.6 per cent of energy consumption had come from renewables, thus exceeding the 2020 target of 33 per cent. Indeed, over the period from 24 May to 2 June 2019, Montenegro had produced sufficient energy from renewable sources to meet its entire domestic needs.

91. Montenegro was currently undertaking a reform of the national coordination system for sustainable development. The new system would contribute to establishing permanent, efficient and coordinated cooperation within the public administration, local government, academia, the business sector and the United Nations system. The Government was cooperating closely with the United Nations country team to link 2030 Agenda activities with the ongoing European Union accession process. Those were mutually reinforcing processes, as 65 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets had strong links with the accession negotiations.

92. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that the Committee's deliberations at the current session should focus on finding ways to strengthen multilateral cooperative arrangements; promote international cooperation to

achieve shared objectives; address impediments to the implementation of key international agreements; and address the challenge of financing for development in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda offered the most ambitious framework for development. The challenge remained to match that transformative agenda with adequate means of implementation. Financing, fair trade, debt sustainability, access to technology and capacity-building were all key enablers in that regard.

93. The key priorities of Pakistan corresponding to the 2030 Agenda included revitalizing the economy; growing the agriculture sector; shifting to sustainable and affordable energy; conserving and sustainably using water resources; ensuring green growth through a holistic approach; expanding the social safety net through an ambitious anti-poverty programme; investing in universal education; and scaling up health care. While domestic resource mobilization and greater self-reliance were at the heart of those efforts, an enabling international environment, greater access to financial resources and technological support remained critical to achieving the Government's stated priorities. Enhancing international cooperation was also critical to combating illicit financial flows, especially for the recovery of stolen assets. The United Nations Convention against Corruption provided the necessary framework for such cooperation and must be fully implemented.

94. Pakistan remained acutely vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. As addressing climate change was a collective undertaking that required a global response, her delegation welcomed the recent holding of the Climate Action Summit and hoped that renewed political will would make it possible to move towards the achievement of the Paris Agreement objectives, including the fulfilment of the \$100 billion pledge by 2020.

95. Lastly, she underlined the continued support of Pakistan to people living under colonial domination and foreign occupation. A people's right of self-determination was a fundamental human right enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

96. **Mr. Malik** (India) said that the achievement of 2030 Agenda required multilateral action to address the challenges and adjust national policies to the changing global landscape. The national efforts of India to pursue inclusive and sustainable development were closely aligned with the global agenda. In the spirit of sharing experiences, India had presented its first voluntary national review in 2017 and would present its second review at the next high-level political forum in 2020.

97. India had made the 2030 Agenda a cornerstone of its development policies. During the past five years a large number of flagship programmes had been implemented with the aim of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including a national nutrition mission, a national health protection scheme and campaign for education of the girl child. To comprehensively address of all water-related issues, a new ministry for water conservation and management had recently been established. A massive afforestation programme was also under way to restore 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020 and an additional 8 million hectares by 2030.

98. Sustainable development must address climate change through appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures, and India planned to produce 175 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2022. Together with France, India had cofounded the International Solar Alliance, which had become a major global initiative for contributing to the implementation of the Paris Agreement through the rapid and massive deployment of solar energy. India had also established the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. The Coalition would act as a mechanism to assist countries in upgrading their capacities and practices with a view to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.

99. **Mr. Budhu** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that his country was committed to the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Samoa Pathway and the Paris Agreement. Driven by its commitment to leave no one behind, the Government was implementing its ambitious strategic development plan, Vision 2030, which was closely aligned with the 2030 Agenda and placed a specific focus on eradicating poverty and inequality by promoting productivity, innovation and creativity. Trinidad and Tobago was striving to build a society in which all basic needs were met and every person was valued and given the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the development of the nation. His country looked forward to presenting its first voluntary national review at the high-level political forum in 2020.

100. Trinidad and Tobago was still grappling with many development challenges that were exacerbated by its inherent vulnerabilities to exogenous economic and environmental shocks. It was imperative therefore that the international community continue to recognize the special case and unique development challenges facing small island developing States. His delegation welcomed the convening of the high-level midterm review of the Samoa Pathway and the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration that reaffirmed the global

commitment to ensure that no small island developing State was left behind. To that end, the international community must scale up global partnerships and international cooperation, including support for capacity-building and technology transfer. Furthermore, multilateral institutions should design and implement tailored financial tools and facilities that enabled small island developing States to better participate in the international financial system and global markets.

101. **Ms. Ali** (United Arab Emirates) said that her country remained committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The Government had established a national committee to coordinate the achievement of the Goals across all sectors, in line with such national frameworks as Vision 2021, the Energy Strategy 2050 and the Centennial 2071 project.

102. Foreign assistance programmes had been restructured to incorporate the Goals and the United Arab Emirates was working in close partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations Development Programme to specifically bolster the efforts of all Governments to achieve the Goals. Electricity shortages were a particular obstacle to economic development, and the United Arab Emirates believed that efforts should be redoubled to close the energy gap through the use of low-cost renewable energy sources.

103. Dubai would shortly host Expo 2020, which was expected to receive 25 million visitors and would therefore provide an unprecedented opportunity to raise awareness about the Goals and accelerate their achievement.

104. **Mr. Bilan** (Ukraine) said that his country was undergoing fundamental social, economic and political transformations. Despite the temporary occupation of part of Ukrainian territory, the Government was fully committed to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and meeting the related 169 targets. The country was a regional leader in terms of tailoring the Goals to the national context. The President of Ukraine had recently signed a decree inviting the Government to mainstream the Goals into all its policy and strategic documents and to monitor the progress achieved on a regular basis. Ukraine would present its voluntary national review at the high-level political forum in 2020.

105. The achievement of the Goals was one of the main priorities for Ukraine. In that context, the Government aimed to ensure sustainable economic growth, overcome poverty, increase employment, implement effective law enforcement and judicial reform, promote innovation and sustainable infrastructure, build an effective public

health system and provide affordable education and decent work.

106. Ukraine welcomed relevant United Nations initiatives, such as those aimed at halving global hunger. Ukrainians, who knew the price of hunger, would once again mark the Day of Holodomor in November to commemorate the mass starvation artificially organized by the Soviet regime, a tragedy that had taken millions of lives. His country could not stand by while 820 million people around the world were still starving. It therefore stood ready to help other nations in addressing the issue of food security.

107. Ukraine was fully committed to its obligations under the Paris Agreement and had been the first European country to deposit its instrument of ratification with the United Nations. His delegation welcomed the recent holding of the Climate Action Summit.

108. No country alone could achieve sustainable development without sustainable peace and security. The existential challenge that States affected by armed conflict faced lay at the heart of the foreign and domestic policy of Ukraine. His delegation therefore wished to highlight the close interlinkage between sustainable development and the peaceful settlement of conflict. A constructive multi-stakeholder dialogue would facilitate the widest possible cooperation to ensure that emerging sustainable development challenges were properly addressed.

109. **Mr. Akamba** (Cameroon) said that his delegation was concerned that the progress made to date in many areas of the Sustainable Development Goals remained insufficient. Basic sanitation, education and food, affordable energy and unpolluted air remained only a dream for millions of individuals who had been left behind and deprived of their dignity. Unfortunately, that sad reality had been critically exacerbated by conflict, drought and natural disasters related to climate change.

110. Cameroon was working tirelessly to achieve the three pillars of sustainable development. The country's United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2018–2020 aimed to address structural challenges through social inclusion of the most vulnerable and the consolidation of development achievements. Specific challenges included the implementation of the ambitious recovery and peacebuilding strategy and of the humanitarian response plan for 2017–2020.

111. The Government of Cameroon was committed to increasing the national production of renewable energy to 25 per cent by 2030 and was seeking to improve the living conditions of citizens by providing reliable,

affordable and sustainable energy. To that end, it had launched a number of projects, including on electrification, hydro and solar power and clean energy, and was hopeful that the Green Climate Fund would support their implementation. As part of its efforts to achieve carbon neutrality and combat climate change, the Government had initiated an environmental taxation reform, the National Observatory on Climate Change was being reorganized to improve its efficiency and a laboratory was under development to monitor the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.

112. **Mr. Sarufa** (Papua New Guinea) said that while progress had been achieved in certain areas of the 2030 Agenda, the international community was not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee's deliberations provided a timely opportunity to share useful best practices and experiences. It was in that same spirit that his country was also looking forward to present, for the first time, its voluntary national review on the status of implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the forthcoming high-level political forum in 2020.

113. The localized and integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda remained a priority for Papua New Guinea under the Government's third medium term development plan for 2018–2022. The plan covered key priority areas, including revitalization of the agricultural sector as a key driver for inclusive economic growth. While measured progress had been made in specific areas, such as education, primary health care, gender equality and peace and security, much more work remained to be done. The national development objective was to secure the future through inclusive sustainable economic growth and to make the country a prosperous, peaceful and secure one for the benefit of its people.

114. However, the success of the 2030 Agenda in Papua New Guinea would also depend on financing for development and on how the challenges posed by climate change were addressed. Supplementary financing for development from development partners would be necessary in that regard.

115. **Mr. Gertze** (Namibia) said that climate change was real and evolving at a frightening pace. The blue economy was being increasingly impacted by climate change and other factors, such as pollution and overfishing. While Namibia was playing its part in addressing some of those challenges, including by hosting both the South Atlantic Fisheries Organization and the Benguela Current Commission, more urgent joint action was needed if the oceans were to continue sustaining life on Earth.

116. Namibia was potentially one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. The country was subject to high climatic variability characterized by persistent droughts, unpredictable and variable rainfall patterns, sporadic floods and desertification that caused damage to infrastructure and livelihoods of people. It was currently in the fourth consecutive year of the worst drought ever experienced. In response, the Government would continue scaling up and diversifying food systems to promote more sustainable production and consumption patterns that reinforced food security and resilience. It also advocated improving market access, investing in education and strengthening research on desertification through land-based solutions.

117. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [62/195](#), Namibia called on the United Nations to convene a high-level event in 2020 to take stock of what had been achieved during the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, to assess the challenges encountered and to develop appropriate measures to address them. His delegation remained hopeful that the financial commitments made during the recently convened Climate Action Summit would be fulfilled.

118. **Ms. Tiwet** (Malaysia) said that, in addressing the multiple challenges to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the implementation of national policies required a multi-stakeholder approach, effective coordination among all levels of government and adequate mobilization of domestic and foreign resources. The Goals had been embedded in every facet of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan.

119. On 5 October 2019, the Prime Minister of Malaysia had launched the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, a blueprint for transforming Malaysia from a labour-intensive country reliant on low-paid workers to a high-income, high-skilled labour force capable of attracting new investments and opportunities, in line with the latest developments in science and technology. The National Sustainable Development Goals Progress Monitoring System, launched earlier in 2019, would serve as a main reference for the development of a dashboard to disseminate all data related to the Goals.

120. By implementing programmes for poverty eradication, forest management and protection of the country's rich biodiversity, the Government of Malaysia was working hard to ensure that economic development and environmental conservation went hand in hand. Malaysia took its commitment to conservation seriously and was proud to be a signatory to an extensive list of international treaties on conservation, wildlife, forestry

and the environment. Unfortunately, the country was being unfairly accused of putting the need for development before the needs of its forests. Her delegation wished to reiterate that the palm oil industry in Malaysia had been developed sustainably and responsibly. Malaysia had taken steps to improve production methods to ensure that its palm oil production was certified sustainable by 2020.

121. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio in 1992, Malaysia had committed to maintain at least 50 per cent of its land mass under forest cover. Almost three decades later, forest cover was currently at 55.3 per cent or 18.28 million hectares of the total land area. That achievement demonstrated the nation's commitment to conserve and sustainably manage its forest, flora and fauna. Malaysia urged all Member States to combat climate change and fulfil their promises to reduce carbon emissions, conserve forests and recycle so that future generations could enjoy a world that was sustainable not only economically but also environmentally.

122. **Mr. Elmahs** (Egypt) said that his Government had incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals into its national plans, including Egypt Vision 2030. Egypt had made sustainable development one of its priorities as Chair of the African Union in 2019, and had presented voluntary national reviews to the high-level political forum twice, in 2016 and 2018. The ambitious plans adopted were thanks to national reforms that had had a positive socioeconomic impact, including through increased investment in the education and health sectors and in efforts to combat climate change. Egypt had represented the Group of 77 and China in the negotiations at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Katowice, Poland, in 2018, and, with the United Kingdom, had co-chaired a coalition on climate adaptation and resilience at the climate change summit convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September 2019. Sustainable development could not be achieved without environmental conservation. Desertification threatened many peoples, especially in Africa. Increased population and climate change had also exacerbated the scarcity of water, which was essential to life. All countries must therefore work together to tackle water scarcity.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.