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Chair: Mr. Al-Kuwari (Vice-Chair) (Qatar)
later: Ms. Beshkova (Acting 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 10 a.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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- (k) **Combating sand and dust storms** (continued) (A/74/263)
- (l) **Sustainable mountain development** (continued) (A/74/209)

1. **Ms. Tshering** (Bhutan) said that people were at the centre of her country's development philosophy of gross

national happiness, the aim of which was to achieve a balance between material growth and spiritual well-being. Her Government had identified national key result areas to be achieved by 2023 in an effort to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The country's twelfth five-year plan also served as a transition plan for graduating from least developed country status in 2023. There was reason to believe that Bhutan would achieve the Sustainable Development Goals before 2030.

2. Small developing countries and the least developed countries were the most vulnerable to climate change and the least able to adapt. Worldwide efforts to prevent a further rise in the global temperature had been inadequate and not enough was being done to harness rapid advances in science and technology to mitigate the impact of climate change. Greater international solidarity and deeper partnerships were needed to boost the resilience of vulnerable countries. As Chair of the Group of Least Developed Countries for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, her country had presented the Group's vision for achieving net zero emissions by 2050 to the 2019 Climate Action Summit.

3. Bhutan was committed to remaining carbon neutral for all time and its environmental policies were focused on balanced development, forgoing short-term economic gains for long-term well-being. As a majority of the population of Bhutan depended on agriculture and the national economy was heavily reliant on hydroelectric power and tourism, climate change had serious implications for her country's socioeconomic development. However, sustainable development in mountain areas did not receive the attention that it deserved. Her delegation therefore welcomed the establishment of the Group of Friends of Mountainous Countries. Mountain ecosystems were becoming increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters, extreme climate-related events and unsustainable use of resources. In a world heading towards water, food and energy crises, investing in sustainable mountain development should be a global priority.

4. **Ms. Chigiyal** (Federated States of Micronesia) expressed her country's solidarity with the people and Government of Japan, which had recently been hit by an earthquake and one of the worst typhoons seen in half a century. The growing impact of climate change on communities around the globe was frightening to behold and her delegation therefore welcomed the holding of the Climate Action Summit. The slow progress of steps taken by the international community to confront global warming and the consequent sea-level rise was a source

of growing alarm. Most low-lying islands in the Pacific were at risk of being lost.

5. The potential impact of climate change on sovereignty and territorial integrity must not be overlooked. Her country's exclusive economic zone, which was the source of its livelihood, could diminish substantially in size, given that maritime baselines, located mostly on atolls, might be submerged forever. In the light of that threat to her country and much of the Pacific region, her delegation welcomed the decision by the International Law Commission to include the topic "Sea-level rise in relation to international law" in its long-term programme of work.

6. Preservation of the ocean and its marine diversity was critical to the sustainable development of island countries and the future of all. As a responsible steward of the ocean, her country was partnering with the Blue Prosperity Coalition to create a comprehensive climate-smart marine spatial plan for its exclusive economic zone. The plan would enhance national capacity to conserve marine resources and ecosystems, including through the establishment of protected marine areas in at least 30 per cent of the zone. Her country was also committed to strengthening the monitoring and control of fishing activities through the Technology for Tuna Transparency Challenge, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. The aim was to implement electronic monitoring in tuna fisheries and achieve full transparency and coverage by 2023.

7. **Mr. Moraru** (Republic of Moldova) said that the world was not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and that most of the 21 targets set for 2020 would be missed. They related to areas such as youth employment, access to information and communications technology, global greenhouse gas emissions and the mobilization of funds for climate change action. The reasons for the failure to achieve those targets required examination.

8. Pledges by world leaders to take action to achieve critical targets in the economic, social and environmental areas of sustainable development, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities, were laudable. His country was firmly committed to achieving the Goals. In 2018, his Government had drafted a national development strategy for 2030, based on the Goals and building on the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union. His country, which would carry out a voluntary national review in 2020, welcomed the report on ways of strengthening policy research uptake in the context of the 2030 Agenda, issued by the Joint Inspection Unit in 2018 ([JIU/REP/2018/7](#)). Its findings should be taken

into account and its recommendations implemented, as appropriate.

9. **Ms. Bustamante** (Peru) said that extraordinary efforts would be required to slow the impact of rising temperatures associated with climate change. Her delegation welcomed the holding of the Climate Action Summit, in which Peru had taken an active part. Shrinking glaciers, ocean warming and water scarcity were all signs of the impact of climate change on Peru. Significant biodiversity loss, especially in the Amazon, combined with rising temperatures represented a twofold crisis that must be tackled as a whole.

10. With a view to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, her country had adopted an ambitious road map to enable it to achieve the objectives set out under its nationally determined contribution by 2030. An improvement in that regard was expected already in 2020. Her Government was working on a national plan of adaptation to climate change with a view to improving the resilience of infrastructure and the public in the face of recurring natural disasters that directly affected millions of people in Peru and undermined its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. More must be done to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. That required greater commitment and leadership from Governments and the private sector to build disaster risk reduction into development policy, regulations, investment and financing across all sectors. A concerted, integrated and multilateral response was needed to tackle climate change. Support from the United Nations in that regard was essential.

12. **Mr. Córdova Chabla** (Ecuador), recalling the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities in implementing sustainable development obligations, said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda was an integral part of his Government's national policy and reflected in its national development plan for the period 2017–2021. As a growing number of people suffered from hunger and malnutrition, the eradication of poverty in all its forms remained the single greatest global challenge. His country was determined to address climate change, protect biodiversity, combat drought and desertification, preserve the environment, tackle plastics pollution, promote the use of renewable energy and ensure the compatibility of socioeconomic and technological development with nature.

13. Ecuador had submitted its nationally determined contribution, which had been prepared with the assistance of the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) in a fully participatory process, to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in March 2019. His country took a people-centred, inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction that was focused on prevention and planned to develop a broad risk strategy by 2020. It encouraged life-long, inclusive learning as a means of boosting culture and promoting human talent and supported the important role played by women in development. His delegation was facilitating negotiations on the draft resolution on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development. Ecuador promoted the solution of disputes through dialogue and recognized that peace was a necessary condition for sustainable development.

14. **Mr. Elmaghur** (Libya) said that the right to development and the principle of collective responsibility should be the basis for development efforts. In that regard, developing countries needed assistance from the international community, including through technology transfer and capacity-building. Libya suffered greatly from desertification and the agriculture sector largely depended on increasingly scarce water from aquifers and wells. The Great Man-Made River project had gone some way to alleviating the problem but progress had been brought to a standstill by the country's political instability, one of the consequences of which had been regular power outages.

15. There could be no development without improved transport infrastructure. Strategic infrastructure projects in his country included plans to make Tripoli a gateway into Africa by building an international airport with capacity for 30 million passengers a year and to build 1,900 km of railways and expressways across the country from east to west. Those and other projects, however, had been paralysed by nine years of war. His delegation called on Member States, some of which had been interfering in the internal affairs of Libya, to assist in the recovery of its plundered assets, which would provide a valuable source of funding for sustainable development.

16. **Mr. Morini** (Italy) said that his country attached particular importance to sustainable development in mountain regions. According to the *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, which had been released recently by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, mountain regions were among the areas most affected by climate change and environmental degradation. It had been highlighted in the report that glaciers, snow, ice and permafrost would continue to dwindle. Smaller glaciers in Europe, East Africa, the tropical Andes and Indonesia would lose

more than 80 per cent of their current ice mass by 2100 under high emission scenarios. Italy, 35 per cent of the territory of which was mountainous, was already directly affected. In the north of the country, officials were monitoring the Planpincieux Glacier, where nearby communities faced the risk of landslides of more than 250,000 m³ of ice.

17. Some 670 million people lived in high mountain regions throughout the world and depended on their preservation for their livelihoods. Sustainable mountain development was thus the cornerstone of his country's work in the Second Committee. Its efforts were channelled mostly through the Mountain Focus Group, which it co-chaired with Switzerland. Together with Switzerland, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Italy had also played a central role in the creation of the Mountain Partnership. Italy and Kyrgyzstan would together facilitate negotiations on the draft resolution on sustainable mountain development at the current session of the General Assembly.

18. **Mr. Al-Mas** (Bahrain) said that his country had been a pioneer of sustainable development, having achieved the Millennium Development Goals before 2015. Successive development strategies had been designed to meet the aspirations of the people of Bahrain and his Government had woven the Sustainable Development Goals into its current development programmes, the aim of which was to diversify the economy and increase the role of the private sector in the development process, in line with its Economic Vision for 2030. In the face of challenges as a small island developing State, Bahrain was working to build its competitiveness and attract inward investment.

19. Bahrain attached great importance to the protection of labour rights and the creation of an environment conducive to professional development as a means of achieving sustainable development. A flexible work permit system had replaced the sponsorship system for migrant workers. As a result of the measures taken, unemployment had fallen to a rate of 4 per cent over the previous 10 years. The rights of foreign workers, including to health insurance, decent housing and protection from arbitrary dismissal, were guaranteed. Efforts to combat human trafficking had been stepped up. A national employment programme had been launched in 2019 to create sustainable jobs for Bahrainis in a supple, efficient labour market. His country was committed to achieving sustainable development in order to ensure stability, well-being and prosperity for its people.

20. **Mr. Gata Mavita Wa Lufuta** (Democratic Republic of the Congo), speaking also on behalf of Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Chad, Equatorial Guinea and the Gabon, said that the effect of climate change was increasingly devastating, as development gains were being swept aside by frequent natural disasters. The impact of climate change on ecosystems, food security and economic development was exacerbating poverty and social exclusion in Central African countries. It was vital to preserve the subregion's tropical forests, which absorbed 30 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Combating deforestation and desertification and promoting a carbon-neutral economy were thus priorities for the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States, which wished to encourage green growth with solutions based on nature.

21. Those States were working to strengthen their nationally determined contributions; make the green economy a reality through 33 sectoral development programmes; develop and promote the blue economy; extend programmes such as ECOFAC 6 and the Central African Forest Initiative to all Central African States; rekindle the subregional action plan to combat desertification; implement a range of renewable energy and cross-border electrification programmes; and implement development plans to make industry cleaner.

22. The rate of forest degradation had accelerated over the previous three years. Forest conservation was costly but little international funding had been made available for Central African forests. The international community should provide the subregion's countries with greater incentives to preserve and sustainably manage their forests without compromising their development. They urged partners to deliver promised funding for the Central African Forest Initiative and new partners to join. There was an urgent need to activate the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin. The key to sustainable development and efforts to combat climate change lay in the capacity of the international community to mobilize the necessary funds.

23. **Mr. Petchezi** (Togo) said that, against a backdrop of persistent extreme poverty, growing inequality, dwindling development aid, climate change, natural disasters and conflict, the implementation of Agenda 21: Programme of Action for Sustainable Development was a matter of urgent necessity. As had been made clear in the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, the time had come for accelerated action.

24. His country, which had been a pioneer of sustainable development and had already submitted three voluntary national reviews to the high-level political forum, had recently adopted a national development plan. Considerable economic reforms and other measures were envisaged under the plan, the aim of which was to transform Togo into a socioeconomically stable, middle-income country.

25. The impact of climate change, in particular in the form of the rising sea level and coastal erosion, was being keenly felt in Togo. His delegation therefore welcomed the holding of the Climate Action Summit and hoped that the promises made there would lead to carbon neutrality by 2050.

26. **Mr. Al Shuaibi** (Oman) said that the Oman Vision 2040 development programme and the ninth five-year development plan for the period 2016–2020 were evidence of his country's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The country's initiatives and successes, as well as the development challenges it faced, had been catalogued in its first voluntary national review, which it had submitted to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019. Turbulence in the oil market, the global economic downturn and the regional geopolitical situation had had an adverse impact on the country's finances. Measures were needed to ensure financial sustainability and a stable economy in Oman, which benefited from political stability. Plans to develop a knowledge-based economy and invest heavily in infrastructure should prove to be a catalyst for economic growth.

27. His country was vulnerable to climate change and was striving to mitigate the impact of greenhouse gas emissions, reduce its dependence on oil and explore alternative sources of energy. The country's national energy strategy, which was focused on renewable energy, was in line with Sustainable Development Goal 7. Oman was striving to keep pace with the fourth industrial revolution and was planning to replace 50 per cent of gas used in the oil industry with advanced solar energy systems. Support would be provided for the initial stages of the project from the end of 2025.

28. *Ms. Beshkova (Bulgaria), Acting Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

29. **Mr. Soumah** (Guinea) said that the national disaster management commission, under the Ministry of the Environment, was responsible for carrying out his country's national plan on disaster prevention and assistance and monitoring its implementation. Developing countries were suffering most from the effects of climate change, although they contributed

little to global warming. A concerted effort was needed at all levels to combat the scourge of climate change. Internationally, there was no place for unilateralism in that regard, for no country could tackle the problem alone.

30. The potential for harnessing renewable sources of energy in Africa had thus far remained largely untapped. The African Renewable Energy Initiative had therefore been launched in 2015 under the leadership of his country's President. Its aim was to stimulate the development of clean energy in Africa and thereby reduce its dependency on fossil fuel imports. To date, funding had been approved for more than 200 projects, amounting to a total output of 10 gigawatts; a further 78 projects, totalling almost 5 gigawatts, had been adopted; and another 92 projects, with a total potential output of almost 25 gigawatts, were being evaluated.

31. **Mr. Margaryan** (Armenia) said that, four years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, growing inequality, exclusion and marginalization called for accelerated efforts and stronger and more inclusive engagement of all stakeholders to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

32. As a mountainous and landlocked country, Armenia faced specific development challenges, exacerbated by the fact that some neighbouring countries maintained closed borders. His country's main resource was human capital, and human rights and self-realization of the individual were at the heart his Government's ambitious reform agenda, which had been unveiled at the launch of the Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050. The Government had launched a reform plan for the education system, key components of which included innovation, greater inclusion of girls, children with disabilities and children living in remote areas, closer harmonization with the needs of the labour market and better social conditions for teachers. Networks of creative technology centres were growing and attracting interest from abroad.

33. The Government had made a priority of developing an environmentally friendly high-tech economy. Comprehensive measures to tackle deforestation included strengthening local ownership, providing alternative energy sources and eco-friendly job opportunities, combating corruption and countering wildfires, including in the transboundary context. His country was committed to implementing the Sendai Framework. Multidimensional cooperation, in particular with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and support for institutional capacity-building had enabled a shift from a response-oriented approach to a risk-informed development and

resilience-building agenda. Local communities and civil society were key partners in tackling climate change challenges and building resilience to disaster. His country fully intended to further localize the Sustainable Development Goals in its national strategies, building synergy and coherence between its economic and environmental policies, and to strengthen cooperation with international organizations and other development partners.

34. **Ms. Vaai** (Samoa) said that his country had integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into its national sustainable development strategy. Samoa was working to meet its commitments under other regional and international instruments and mechanisms, including the Paris Agreement, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and the human rights, disarmament and environment conventions. Health was an important cross-cutting policy issue. Urgent measures, including early detection and screening and affordable primary health care, were needed to bring the non-communicable disease epidemic under control. The adoption of the Tokyo Declaration on Universal Health Coverage had been an important milestone.

35. More international support would be needed for the Samoa Pathway in the coming years, especially in the areas of capacity-building, data collection and analysis, the monitoring of progress and the strengthening of development partnerships. His country sought to make efficient use of its own resources to invest in human and institutional capacity, especially in the area of analysis, meet its statistical needs and set priorities. Development partners and the United Nations regional offices were providing Samoa with invaluable assistance to set national development policy and achieve the Goals. His country welcomed the decision to establish a multi-country office for the North Pacific in the Federated States of Micronesia.

36. **Ms. Eddaou** (Morocco) said that her country, which had in recent years been afflicted by prolonged droughts and heavy floods, was well aware of the challenges posed by climate change. It had thus taken steps to accelerate the implementation of environmental measures, including the national sustainable development strategy for 2030; the renewable energy plan, under which it was envisaged that 52 per cent of national power would be generated from renewable sources by 2030; and participation in the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative.

37. At the current session, Morocco was sponsoring a draft resolution on strengthening cooperation for

integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development, the aim of which was to encourage Member States and stakeholders to do more for the socioeconomic and ecological development of coastal areas. Morocco was also facilitating negotiations on a draft resolution on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind.

38. The need to reduce consumption was a national priority. The central pillars of her country's education reform programme for the period 2015–2030 were equity, equal opportunity and good quality education for all. The primary objective of its revised social development programme was to invest in human capital and reduce social and spatial disparities. The coming decade would require close-knit solidarity, in particular in Africa, to work towards a more sustainable future for vulnerable populations and future generations.

39. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (Nicaragua), noting that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had recently warned that global warming of 2°C would make it impossible to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, said that it was imperative not to exceed a global average of 1.5°C. Moreover, the achievement of the Goals required a new economic and financial model and sustainable patterns of production and consumption. In spite of progress in some countries with regard to poverty reduction, the lack of resources and slow pace of implementation were a matter of concern. It was important for developed countries to meet the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to official development assistance for developing countries, and an additional 0.15 per cent to 0.2 per cent for least developed countries. Developing countries needed access to financial and technological resources and capacity-building.

40. Nicaragua had made progress towards the achievement of all 17 Goals. The eradication of poverty was a priority for his Government. The rate of poverty had dropped from 42.5 per cent in 2009 to 24.9 per cent in 2016; extreme poverty had fallen from 14.6 per cent to 6.9 per cent. Improvements had been made in the areas of health and education, and with regard to subsidies for electricity supply and public transport. More than 1.7 million students had access to free primary and secondary school and technical training. Chronic malnutrition had been reduced by 46 per cent among children aged 5 years and under and by 66 per cent among those aged 6 to 14 years. According to FAO, the reduction of the Gini coefficient on inequality from 0.38 to 0.33 was exemplary.

41. Annual GDP growth in Nicaragua had been a steady 5 per cent from 2014 to 2018. The country had

the best highways in Central America and, according to the World Economic Forum, was among the top five countries in Latin America in terms of the quality of its highways. Under his country's decent housing programme, one of more than 40 social programmes currently in place, the provision of a range of financial incentives had led to the construction of new and improved housing units for almost 240,000 people. Since 2007, 18 hospitals had been built. Two more were under completion and the construction of another 13 was planned from 2020. Nicaragua was considered the third least violent country in Latin America, with a homicide rate of 7.5 out of 100,000 persons, four times less than the Central American average.

42. **Ms. Aurrecochea Duran** (Mexico), noting that global warming had worsened since 2016, making it increasingly difficult to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, said that not enough was being done to address its causes, namely greenhouse gas emissions. In order to forestall the dramatic consequences of global warming in terms of economic losses and loss of human life, there was a need for comprehensive disaster risk management in conjunction with the implementation of the Sendai Framework. On a brighter note, the plans and initiatives presented at the Climate Action Summit demonstrated that a comprehensive approach to countering climate change was possible.

43. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets would not be met unless more protected land and marine parks were created. More must be done to curtail illegal wildlife trafficking, which was a contributing factor to the extinction of certain species. Greater political will must be shown in the run-up to the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which would be held in China in 2020.

44. Overall, the key to implementing the 2030 Agenda was to change production and consumption patterns. People needed to change their habits and Governments needed to provide incentives for them to do so. Sustainable development must be addressed comprehensively in all its dimensions: economic, social and environmental. It was often said that young people were future world leaders. Without drastic and immediate changes, however, it was doubtful that there would be a world to lead.

45. **Ms. Muigai** (Kenya) said that Member States must honour their commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda. Her country had, with Turkey and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), led the track on infrastructure, cities and local action at the recent Climate Action Summit. Initiatives that had emerged

therefrom would facilitate the drafting of national policies and regulations, support access to climate finance for cities and help to build climate resilience among people in vulnerable situations. Kenya was among the top 10 global producers of geothermal electricity and had recently launched the single largest wind power project in Africa. Further renewable energy generation projects were in the pipeline.

46. In 2018, her country had hosted the first ever global conference on the blue economy. Together with Portugal, it would co-host 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, in Lisbon in June 2020, the outcome of which would feed into the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. In March 2019, the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly had been held in Nairobi. The next session would be held there in February 2021.

47. Kenya was losing arable land to desertification at an alarming rate and was determined to combat the phenomenon. Her country welcomed the outcome of the recently held fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, including the New Delhi Declaration: Investing in Land and Unlocking Opportunities and the adoption of the preparatory process to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The first meeting of the open-ended intersessional working group, which had been established at the session, had been held in Nairobi in August 2019. Her delegation urged parties to the Convention to support a transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with strong implementation and accountability mechanisms and ambitious national commitments.

48. As the host country to UNEP and UN-Habitat, Kenya would continue to support them in the delivery of their mandates. At the current session, Kenya would coordinate the passage of the procedural draft resolution on the report of the Environment Assembly, which her delegation urged Member States to support. There was a need to recognize the fundamental link between nature, a stable climate, human well-being and sustainable development for all. Her country was in favour of expanding the Harmony with Nature Knowledge Network and underscored the need for renewed efforts and sufficient funds to implement the 2030 Agenda on time.

49. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that his country's Vision 2030 Jamaica national development plan was substantially aligned with the Sustainable Development

Goals. Jamaica was working with Canada, as Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Development Goal Financing, to unlock private sector funding for critical sustainable infrastructure. His country would remain active in the area of financing for development, given that official development assistance targets amounted to less than half of what had been pledged by Development Assistance Committee countries.

50. His country was working to improve consistency between its activities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the Samoa Pathway, which it regarded as an effective means to foster durable partnerships for the sustainable development of small island developing States. His delegation called on the United Nations to provide adequate support to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of such States and facilitate better national, regional and interregional coordination among them.

51. In implementing policies to trigger fast and sustained progress towards sustainable development, Jamaica faced limited fiscal space and had to bear in mind key social groups, including women and girls, unattached youth, persons with disabilities and the vulnerable and marginalized. His Government intended to strengthen the national statistics system, improve its monitoring and evaluation framework, identify means of financing the Goals, build capacity in policy integration and the use of goal-oriented, evidence-based and participatory frameworks, and conduct awareness-raising programmes on the Goals.

52. Jamaica was located in the second most disaster-prone region in the world and planned to pursue a multilayered disaster risk strategy, elements of which included: contributing to a contingency fund for use only in response to natural disasters; securing contingent credit from multilateral financial institutions; making use of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility or regional risk insurance pools; and utilizing catastrophe bonds or catastrophe-linked insurance.

53. **Ms. Luba** (Brunei Darussalam) said that food security and a flourishing agricultural sector were key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It was therefore crucial that countries shared knowledge and best practices to mitigate the impact of climate change, for instance through the development of technology-based systems and resilient strains of staple crops. Her country's long-term development plan, Vision 2035, was aligned with the Goals.

54. Agricultural development and economic diversification were priorities for her Government, which attached great importance to improving its

agriculture, agri-food and fisheries sectors. The productivity and international competitiveness of those sectors had already been enhanced by modern technology and techniques. Gross agricultural output had risen by 8.1 per cent per annum, from B\$93 million in 1998 to B\$436 million in 2018. Fisheries had experienced growth of 4.8 per cent per annum, from B\$43 million in 1988 to B\$110 million in 2018.

55. The role of young people in agriculture was crucial. The sector provided job opportunities for them and their involvement would ensure that it continued to flourish. Her Government had therefore introduced farming courses for young people. Young entrepreneurs had started 16 new businesses, mostly fruit and arid vegetable farms. The Government was promoting the country's produce abroad.

56. In order to foster good nutrition and food security, her country had put in place the Brunei Good Agricultural Practices initiative, based on those of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and nutrition guidelines that covered, among other things, the provision of food and drinks at school, a plan encouraging students to drink water at school and taxes on food and drink products with a high sugar or monosodium glutamate content. Her delegation reaffirmed the support of Brunei Darussalam for the United Nations in its efforts to help Member States to improve people's lives through food and nutrition security.

57. **Mr. Gaye** (Senegal) said that progress on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals had thus far fallen short of expectations. A new approach to economic development, based on the rational and sustainable use of natural resources, and increased joint efforts were therefore needed. His delegation welcomed the call by the Secretary-General for a decade of action and supported the establishment of the annual platform on that subject, which would be convened for the first time in September 2020.

58. His country's national development plan had been revised and now incorporated some two thirds of the priorities outlined in the 2030 Agenda and its framework for follow-up and assessment. At the same time, a series of special programmes had been put in place. Under the urgent community development plan, more than 1,000 villages had been provided with access to drinking water, almost 800 km of country tracks had been laid to reach more than 800 hitherto isolated localities, and thousands of items of farming equipment had been made available.

59. Senegal was determined to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 5 per cent by 2030. His country aimed

to have 30 per cent of its electricity generated by renewable energy sources by 2030, was promoting low-carbon public transport and fostering a "green Senegal" through the application of agroecology and environmental restoration plans such as the Great Green wall initiative. Water management was of key importance to Senegal, which was a member of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River and would host the next World Water Forum in 2021. Integrating public policies also required greater coordination between the key United Nations sectoral programmes.

60. **Monsignor Hansen** (Observer for the Holy See) said that Pope Francis had stated that the issue of sustainable development was indivisible from that of intergenerational solidarity. The question of what kind of world would be left to future generations concerned not only the environment but also the general direction, meaning and values of humanity. Care for the planet could not be limited to a change in models of production and consumption. It required, above all, caring for fellow human beings, in the present and the future. Environmental degradation was connected to human, ethical and social breakdowns. Sustainable development went beyond economic growth, environmental protection and technological progress. At its heart must be the inherent dignity of each person.

61. The pursuit of profits at any cost, the culture of instant gratification, unbridled consumerism and the treatment of nature as an inexhaustible source of supplies for those who could pay must be tempered with the fundamental demands of human dignity and the common good. Solidarity between generations was not only essential to attaining sustainable development; it was a basic question of justice with its foundation in the recognition that the world was the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone.

62. The 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the Katowice climate package demonstrated the growing awareness that the protection of the planet required concerted effort, in line with the fundamental principles of equity and common, but differentiated, responsibilities and respective capabilities. While climate change was proceeding much faster than had been anticipated, however, the Paris Agreement had yet to be implemented. There was a need for joint efforts to promote progress that was healthier, more human, more social and more integral.

63. **Ms. Staworzynska** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters associated with human activity had already lowered productivity. Between

2000 and 2015, natural disasters caused or exacerbated by humanity had resulted in a global annual loss of working-life years equivalent to 0.8 per cent of a year's work. An increase in heat stress resulting from global warming was projected to lead to global productivity losses equivalent to 80 million full-time jobs, or \$2,400 billion, in 2030. More than 1 billion jobs depended directly on the effective management and sustainability of a healthy environment. Environmental degradation threatened ecosystem services and related jobs.

64. The transition to a green economy was not only urgent for the sake of the planet; decoupling growth from carbon emissions could help to stimulate decent work and income opportunities. Millions of new jobs could be created by adopting sustainable practices and clean technologies. Achieving the 2°C target of the Paris Agreement, with a focus on moving away from fossil fuels towards renewable energies, greater energy efficiency and the deployment of electric vehicles, could generate 24 million new jobs by 2030. However, 6 million jobs would be lost, notably in the coal, oil and gas sectors.

65. Such a transition would cause great disruption to businesses and workers. It must be just, which meant managing its economic, environmental and social consequences in ways that maximized opportunities of decent work for all, reduced inequalities, promoted social justice and supported adversely affected industries, workers and communities. Coherent and integrated response strategies, based on broad dialogue, innovative social protection and skills development, an enabling environment for enterprises and investment in the creation of green jobs in key sectors, could have a positive overall effect on employment. The Paris Agreement called for such a just transition and the creation of decent jobs and the ILO Guidelines for a Just Transition Towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All offered a unique framework for the transition to low carbon economies.

66. The aim of the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative was to help countries committed to formulating national plans for a just transition to achieve ambitious climate change mitigation and adaptation goals while enhancing job creation, economic diversification, social dialogue and skills development. ILO stood ready to support countries in designing national plans for a just transition.

67. **Mr. Dingha** (Congo) said that the results thus far of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda had been unsatisfactory. It appeared likely that at least some developing countries would not achieve the Sustainable

Development Goals without a collective global realization of the need for urgent and coordinated measures.

68. However, progress had been made. Since the turn of the century, the maternal mortality ratio in sub-Saharan Africa had declined by 35 per cent and the mortality rate under 5 years of age had dropped by 50 per cent. In the least developed countries, the proportion of people with access to electricity had more than doubled. Nevertheless, progress had been insufficient in some regions. In the Congo, the economy of which had suffered since 2014 from the falling price of oil, on which it was largely dependent, the national development plan for the period 2018–2022 was based on three main pillars: improved governance; the development of human capital; and diversification of the economy.

69. The 2030 Agenda, the Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the regional economic plan of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community had all been taken into account in the elaboration of his country's national development plan. Supported by UNDP, his country had incorporated 92 per cent of the 2030 Agenda into its plan. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals required a considerable level of statistical data, financial and material resources and sufficiently well-trained human capital. Gaps in those areas had appeared which no country could hope to bridge alone. Such challenges could be met only through international cooperation on a global approach in a multilateral framework.

70. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that food systems and nutrition patterns were one of six entry points for achieving structural transformation at the necessary scale and speed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Transforming agriculture and food systems was the most inclusive way to end hunger and poverty. Enough nutritious food should be sustainably produced in a way that supported livelihoods, ensured affordability, reduced the impact on the environment, promoted a healthy diet and was inclusive, especially for women and youth, along the entire food supply chain. Innovation and technology were key, especially in rural economies, and offered new opportunities to small-scale food producers.

71. After decades of steady decline in world hunger, an upswing had begun in 2015. More than 820 million people around the world currently went hungry. Pressure on land, water, forests and oceans and the depletion of biodiversity and genetic resources were being intensified by climate change and weather shocks. Rural

and mountain communities were especially hard hit, and least developed countries and small island developing States were disproportionately affected.

72. At the same time as food insecurity persisted, the incidence of overweight and obesity was increasing at an alarming rate in developed and developing countries. Often the two issues coexisted in the same household. That was especially so in small island developing States, in which the dependence on imported and ultra-processed foods had led to worrisome levels of obesity, which was a leading cause of non-communicable diseases. FAO was working with partners to implement the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, directly contributing to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and promoting the Blue Growth Initiative. Mountain communities were equally vulnerable to food insecurity and climate change. About half of the world's 1.1 billion rural mountain dwellers were food insecure. They were highly dependent on agriculture, fisheries and forestry and especially exposed to natural hazards, a situation made worse by their lack of access to or the scarcity of services and infrastructure.

73. The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the United Nations Decade of Family Farming offered a platform for accelerated and coordinated action to achieve sustainable development.

74. **Mr. Abdel-Latif** (Observer for the International Renewable Energy Agency) said that the dual imperative of tackling climate change and achieving universal energy access was accelerating the global transition to sustainable energy sources. Renewable energy and energy efficiency could deliver 90 per cent of the energy-related emissions reductions required to meet global climate objectives. The transition would boost global GDP by 2.5 per cent in 2050; every dollar spent on it provided a payoff of between three and seven dollars. Thus, climate action could be advanced and prosperity boosted, enabling a just transition.

75. Renewable energy was already the lowest-cost source of electricity in many parts of the world. In 2018 alone, the renewables sector employed 11 million people worldwide, up from 10.3 million in 2017. However, to ensure a climate-safe and prosperous future, the pace of deployment of renewables must accelerate six-fold. Annual renewable energy investments needed to double from \$330 billion to nearly \$750 billion until 2030. The aim of the Climate Investment Platform was to bring together public and private stakeholders to support countries in enhancing their nationally determined contributions and facilitate access to de-risked financial resources and matchmaking.

76. The Agency supported several initiatives that had been launched at the Climate Action Summit, such as the package in which small island developing States had committed themselves to moving as close as possible to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030, and the Coalition for Sustainable Energy Access. The number of people living without electricity had dropped in 2017 to 840 million, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, and some 34 million people had gained access to basic electricity services through off-grid renewable technologies. The Agency supported countries in harnessing such technology and in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 7.

77. The Agency was enhancing its collaboration with key international institutions. It would work with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and UNDP to support countries in reviewing and implementing the renewable energy components of their nationally determined contributions ahead of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2020. The Agency had recently signed memorandums of understanding with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.