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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 14th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 16 October 2019, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Niang ..... (Senegal)  
*later:* Ms. Fisher-Tsin (Vice-Chair) ..... (Israel)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 22: Eradication of poverty and other development issues**

- (a) **Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)** ([A/74/210](#))
- (b) **Women in development** ([A/74/111](#) and [A/74/279](#))
- (c) **Human resources development** ([A/74/284](#))
- (d) **Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** ([A/74/257](#))

1. **Ms. Bas** (Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) ([A/74/210](#)), said that despite the dramatic progress over the previous few decades, the world was still not on track to eradicate extreme poverty by the target year of 2030. The pace of poverty reduction had slowed in developing countries and some middle-income countries, notably among rural populations and marginalized social groups. Although inequality between countries had narrowed, inequality within countries had increased.

2. The report described some of the initiatives that had been undertaken by the interagency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication. Among the report's recommendations were that sustained investments were needed in agriculture, in particular in smallholder agriculture; that Governments should expand access to inclusive and equitable education, universal health coverage, training, skills upgrading and high-quality public services; and that adequate social protection coverage should be expanded by implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems for all.

3. The report concluded that the United Nations system could strengthen implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, inter alia, by prioritizing the joint formulation and implementation of poverty eradication strategies within the context of United Nations development and by continuing to support the strengthening of national institutions to enhance policy coherence and multisectoral coordination.

4. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([A/74/257](#)), she noted for

the half of the world's population that lived in rural areas – which included large numbers of indigenous people and children – the poverty rate was over three times that of urban areas. The report noted key obstacles to eradicating rural poverty, including a lack of disaggregated data, inadequate investment, inadequate human capital formation, scarcity of non-farm income-generating opportunities, a lack of productive capacity, persistent gender inequalities, a lack of social protection, insufficient basic infrastructure and services, a lack of or poor adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change, and a lack of effective rural institutions and sufficient resources.

5. The report concluded that rural poverty was deeply rooted in structural biases and complex policy challenges that required political commitment, dedicated and integrated actions, and multisectoral and coordinated policy frameworks. It contained the following recommendations: promoting dedicated and coordinated social, economic, agricultural and rural development policies; investment that bolstered productive capacities and the non-farm economy; increasing investment in agriculture; designing mutually supportive pro-poor development strategies and programmes that addressed structural constraints; addressing the digital divide by investing in infrastructure for greater access to affordable technological devices and services; expanding social protection coverage; bridging gaps for rural women; and addressing spatial poverty traps.

6. **Ms. Regner** (Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development ([A/74/111](#)), said that the purpose of the survey was to focus on key emerging development themes that had an impact on the roles of women and men in the economy. The survey made it possible to examine how poverty shaped and constrained the lives of women. For example, the income gap was highest for women between 25 and 34 years of age, which coincided with the period when women faced higher expenses associated with child-rearing, compounded by a lack of time to engage in paid work. An integrated public policy approach was needed to address the double bind of income and time poverty faced by women. Universal social protection systems, including paid maternity leave and child and family transfers, could help. Low-income women also needed labour market interventions that could help them to build sustainable livelihoods and accumulate assets to support themselves and their families in the longer term.

7. An integrated public policy approach was recommended in the report based on four elements: prioritizing gender equality, unpaid care and domestic work in the design of poverty eradication and sustainable development strategies; enhancing the income security of women throughout the life course, in particular in the phase around childbirth and child rearing; reducing time poverty among women and the drudgery of unpaid care and domestic work; and strengthening financing, participation, monitoring and accountability for those goals.

8. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on women in development (A/74/279), she noted that despite women's increasingly visible participation in the economy, notable gender gaps remained in labour markets in both developing and developed countries. While digital innovations, cellular technology and Internet access were changing the economic landscape, they were also creating new gender gaps. Among other things, such innovations tended to expand the informal labour sector, in which women were disproportionately represented. Although lower levels of education were associated with informal employment, education alone would not overcome structural barriers such as the institutionalized discrimination and occupational segregation that continued to perpetuate gender gaps. Discriminatory laws and gender norms continued to hinder women's full and equal participation in economies worldwide. National efforts to overcome those barriers were assessed in the report.

9. **Ms. Barthelemy** (Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on human resources development (A/74/284), said that the present report focused on the relationship between education and work. With the ongoing digital revolution driving rapid changes in the labour market, the challenge was to make use of technological developments to foster economic growth and employment while ensuring decent working conditions, social protection and equal opportunities for all. The report highlighted the changes needed in education systems to help students acquire the skills required by new business models, the changes needed at the government, private-sector and other levels to support lifelong learning, and overall policies to overcome the digital divide and create future-ready workers.

10. With respect to education, the recommendations contained in the report included investing in strong foundational skills, helping future workers adjust to the changing labour market and supporting prospective workers in their efforts to identify the right skills. With

a view to closing the digital divide, the recommendations included creating ecosystems for innovation and enabling access to appropriate digital infrastructure, with targeted support directed towards disadvantaged groups. In terms of social protection schemes, the main recommendations were to establish a system of entitlements that enabled workers to participate in training; to promote labour-market policies that helped to facilitate adaptation during transition periods; and to extend accessible and portable social protection rights and benefits to cover the non-standard conditions of employment that tended to be fostered by frontier technologies.

11. **Mr. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that despite some progress, the world as a whole was not on track to eradicate extreme poverty by the target year of 2030. Those left behind were becoming increasingly harder to reach, especially residents of rural areas and members of disadvantaged and marginalized social groups. The Group called on the international community and the United Nations development system to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication and urgently take measures to address the root causes and challenges of poverty. The Group also called on the developed countries to fulfil their official development assistance (ODA) commitments and provide predictable financial resources and technical assistance for the national efforts of developing countries. It was important to use multidimensional indicators and develop transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that complemented gross domestic product (GDP) in order to effectively reflect the reality of the populations of all developing countries.

12. The Group recognized the need to prioritize women's economic empowerment and inclusion. Gender inequality continued to exacerbate the impact of poverty on the lives of women and girls. Poverty was a stumbling block to gender equality that could only be removed by empowering women and girls with the same opportunities as their male counterparts.

13. Health and education were at the core of human resources development, in particular for the most vulnerable groups. It was important to harness ongoing technological change in human resource development, and to address the associated risks, including the loss of jobs due to labour-displacing technologies. Bridging the technological divide was a precondition to bridging the economic divide both among and within countries.

14. **Ms. Chibwana** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that

although extreme poverty continued to decline, the pace had slowed. Extreme poverty was concentrated in the least developed countries and disproportionately affected rural populations. It was projected that some 6 per cent of the world's population would still be living in extreme poverty in 2030. Poverty was a consequence of the interplay of social, political and economic factors. Employment alone did not necessarily guarantee a decent living. Some 8 per cent of employed workers – including almost one third of workers in the least developed countries – had been living in extreme poverty in 2018. Even people who technically lived above the extreme poverty threshold did not necessarily enjoy access to essential services, economic opportunities or social protection.

15. Economic growth alone could not eradicate poverty. The international community needed to deploy targeted interventions where poverty and vulnerability were concentrated, such as in the least developed countries. Investments should be scaled up to ensure access to education, health care, energy, drinking water and sanitation services. It was important to ensure full employment and decent work with adequate minimum wages, and to put in place social protection systems for the vulnerable. In particular, efforts should be made to build the resilience and adaptive capacity of small-scale and family farmers. Eradicating the scourge of poverty in its entirety would require reorienting the focus to countries where the challenges were complex and pervasive, namely, the least developed countries.

16. **Ms. Lindo** (Belize), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that among the many interlinked factors that contributed to poverty, climate change was of particular concern to small island developing States. Climate change was exacerbated by both human action and human inaction. The current climate-related targets were woefully inadequate to meet the challenges. Small island developing States had lost whole islands and suffered from drought, coral loss and disappearing fisheries. Climate action could not be separated from development for those countries. Impacts were compounded by the diversion of funds from social spending to climate-change-related expenditures.

17. The small island developing States could not go it alone. While the Alliance was grateful for existing international partnerships, they must be expanded. In particular, in implementing his reforms, the Secretary-General must take into account the priorities of small island developing States as set forth in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

18. **Mr. Ke** (Cambodia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN was committed to eradicating poverty through integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to the development gap, rural development, community empowerment, stakeholder engagement and private-sector development partnerships. Successful implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration had dramatically reduced poverty in the region, as well as facilitating trade and investment and reducing development gaps between member States.

19. With a view to empowering local communities, ASEAN member States had undertaken initiatives that included the promotion of technical and vocational education and training, the extension of social protection coverage, the support of gender empowerment programmes and the improvement of agricultural techniques and entrepreneurship skills. At the Tenth ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting, held in October 2018, the Ministers had reiterated their commitment to inclusive education with a focus on lifetime learning opportunities. ASEAN Community Vision 2025, which was in line with the 2030 Agenda, aimed to promote regional integration through cohesiveness in community-building efforts, with a view to creating an ASEAN single market that would promote sustainable employment, improved standards of living and enhanced social protections for all. The ASEAN economy was the world's fifth largest, and poverty in the region had declined dramatically over the previous three decades.

20. *Ms. Fisher-Tsin (Israel), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

21. **Mr. Rupende** (Zimbabwe), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that poverty needed to be looked at in the context of inequality within and among countries, climate change, sustainable growth and social inclusion. Governments of developing countries should formulate poverty eradication strategies in line with their national priorities and circumstances, but the Committee could assist through a holistic approach that addressed the interconnected drivers of poverty. For African countries, that would include technical and financial assistance to mobilize domestic and foreign resources.

22. Despite remarkable progress, the world as a whole was not on track to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. The number of people in sub-Saharan Africa living on less than \$1.25 per day had actually increased. Although inequality among countries had narrowed, inequality within countries had widened, notably between urban and rural areas. The Group stressed the need for employment generation, sustained and inclusive growth,

universal and affordable access to basic services, well-designed social protection systems, empowerment of individuals to seize economic opportunities, and measures to ensure the protection of the environment. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development within a comprehensive strategy of structural economic transformation had a major role to play in poverty eradication and several of the other Sustainable Development Goals. The Group called for enhanced partnerships with African Governments to expand access to inclusive and equitable education, universal health coverage, training, skills upgrading and public services.

23. Climate change posed a serious threat to poverty eradication efforts, as demonstrated when tropical Cyclone Idai had hit Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in March 2019. Those living in poverty were usually at the highest risk for adverse impacts of climate change. The Group welcomed the Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General in September 2019 and urged all to work for further progress at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Chile in December 2019.

24. **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) (A/74/210) did not provide the specific information on poverty in small island developing States that CARICOM had requested during the previous year's session. The Community reiterated its call for any future reports to include a specific focus on small island developing States. Future reports should also reflect the finding of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other organizations that failure to limit global warming to 1.5°C within a decade would irrevocably compromise efforts to limit the adverse effects of climate change. Progress on poverty eradication was dependent on progress on climate change.

25. In the Caribbean region, high unemployment had persisted throughout the previous decade, particularly for young people. Although indigence levels had fallen since the early 2000s, it was estimated that over 40 per cent of the population still lived in poverty. Regional poverty and rising unemployment had fuelled crime rates across the region, which had led to increasing costs for policing and a threat to the tourism industry. Other challenges for the region included population decline owing to lower fertility rates, emigration and an ageing population.

26. CARICOM was developing a youth mainstreaming strategy that included youth entrepreneurial development as a new approach to countering youth unemployment and attendant harmful behaviours such as drug abuse, crime and violence. Consultations were also being concluded on the development of a regional gender equality strategy, and a 2030 human resource development strategy had been adopted.

27. **Mr. Chumakov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation welcomed the fact that the percentage of the world's population living in extreme poverty had declined fourfold since 1990 but was concerned by the slowdown in global progress in combating poverty, which was a top priority for achieving sustainable development. The slowdown jeopardized the achievement of other international goals, including the eradication of hunger, the provision of universal access to health care and education, and the expansion of economic growth. It was hoped that the implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) would make it possible to overcome that negative trend by reducing inequality, increasing employment, strengthening social protection and developing evidence-based decision-making systems.

28. His delegation agreed that it was important to emphasize the fight against poverty in rural areas, where almost 80 per cent of the world's population suffering from extreme poverty lived. Addressing rural poverty required coordinated efforts to build sustainable agrifood systems and provide support to smallholder farmers. An important area of work was to narrow the urban-rural gap in terms of income and the availability of social infrastructure.

29. While extreme poverty had been eliminated in his country, the challenge of overcoming poverty remained. As part of the large-scale national development projects being implemented in the Russian Federation, a goal had been set to halve the poverty rate by 2024 compared to 2017. To that end, targeted measures were being introduced with an emphasis on assisting large families, working members of poor households and rural residents.

30. Special attention was given to the development of the social sphere in rural areas. Since 2013 more than 100,000 jobs had been created there and the living conditions of 63,000 families had been improved. A State programme for the comprehensive development of rural areas by 2020 had also been approved in Russia in May 2019. Its goals were to increase income and employment in rural areas, to maintain rural population levels, to create favourable living conditions in rural areas and to expand Internet access.

31. An important part of the fight against poverty was the development of education and vocational training, especially in the field of new technologies and digitalization. Innovation had become a decisive factor in building industrial capacity. His country was therefore continuing to increase investments in human resources and to expand opportunities to place the economy on an innovative path.

32. Poverty eradication promoted equal rights and opportunities for men and women. A range of measures was being implemented in Russia to support women, including protection against unemployment, the establishment of a minimum wage, the payment of childbirth and childcare benefits, the development of a preschool educational system and the creation of conditions for an optimal combination of family and professional life.

33. His delegation advocated further prioritizing the fight against poverty in the work of the United Nations and the Russian Federation was continuing to increase its contribution to global efforts in that area. Through bilateral and multilateral channels, the Russian Government was financing a number of projects for the benefit of partner countries, including in the areas of food security and healthy nutrition, health and education, and energy and capital infrastructure development. The Russian Government had allocated more than \$1 billion for to such projects in 2018.

34. **Mr. Djani** (Indonesia) said that although poverty rates had been decreasing consistently over the previous few decades, there were a number of trends that remained a cause for concern. Economic growth was expected to slow, and some estimates predicted that extreme poverty would level off at 6 per cent by 2030. Overcoming obstacles would require investments in infrastructure that targeted those furthest behind. In order to eradicate poverty, growth needed to be inclusive, sustainable and evenly distributed among income groups and geographical areas.

35. His Government had been focusing on extending basic services and connectivity to the remotest parts of the country. Over 98 per cent of his country's population had benefited from electrification, some 223 million Indonesians had access to national health insurance and over 18 million poor students received education assistance. His Government had just completed the Palapa Ring Project, which would ensure access to high-speed Internet connectivity to all regions of Indonesia. In 2018, for the first time ever, the poverty rate in Indonesia had dropped to a single-digit figure.

36. **Ms. Paba Sale** (Cameroon) said that her country's social protection measures had reduced food insecurity

and malnutrition significantly. Government policies, including several implemented through partnerships with the United Nations, had contributed to the development of healthy and productive human capital through inclusive and sustainable growth. The productivity and incomes of farmers had been increased through the introduction of modern agricultural technology, with a focus on green agriculture that was mindful of biodiversity and the environment. Her Government also allocated considerable expenditures to health care and education.

37. Unfortunately, the dual threats posed by the terrorist group Boko Haram on the one hand and separatist groups on the other had forced the diversion of resources from social welfare to security. Peace was a prerequisite for poverty eradication. Her delegation called on countries that were hosting terrorist groups to identify and eliminate those groups' sources of financing.

38. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Cuba) said that it would not be possible to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions when countries like the United States of America dedicated millions of dollars to its military rather than to international development, protectionist and unilateral trade practices were on the rise, multilateralism was being undermined, unilateral coercive economic measures were increasingly being implemented, ODA was diminishing in real terms and external debt continued to grow. It was tragic that developing countries, which had contributed the least to the causes of the current environmental crisis, were bearing the brunt of its effects.

39. In spite of its vulnerability, as a small island developing State, to hurricanes, droughts and other effects of climate change, and the imposition by the United States of the illegal and immoral economic, commercial and financial embargo, which Cuba had been resisting for nearly 60 years, her country continued to make noteworthy social progress. Cuba currently had the second lowest Multidimensional Poverty Index score of any country, and was the first country in Latin America and the Caribbean to have eliminated severe child malnutrition. Its infant mortality rate, 4 in every 1,000 live births, was among the lowest in the world; life expectancy stood at 79.9 years; illiteracy had been eliminated; and the population had access to universal, free education and health care.

40. In keeping with the value it placed on international solidarity, Cuba shared its modest resources with countries in need: there were currently more than 60,000 Cuban health professionals working in 65 countries, and the Cuban literacy programme "Yes, I can" had enabled millions around the world to learn to read and write.

Lastly, Cuba remained committed to continuing to share its primary resource, the human capital created by the Cuban revolution, as well as its best experiences.

41. **Ms. Aloufi** (Saudi Arabia) said that her country was one of the world's leading international development donors. It had contributed \$1 billion to the Islamic Development Bank's development fund, and provided funding to numerous other organizations, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations, the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to African and Arab Countries, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme. The total amount donated by the Kingdom for international development had been over \$100 billion. Saudi Arabia was also the world's second largest provider of migrant worker remittances, which were a major source of foreign currency for developing countries.

42. Her country was committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals at the domestic level. Saudi Arabia believed that the marginalization of women was a major source of human suffering and had amended a number of laws that prevented women from realizing their full potential, including laws on education, marriage, divorce, civil rights, housing and travel. Saudi Arabia also believed that there could be no development without international peace, cooperation and compliance with international law, and urged all countries to resolve their differences through diplomatic means.

43. **Ms. Tan** (Singapore) said that with some 8 per cent of the world's population living in extreme poverty, much more needed to be done to reach the target of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030. Her country believed strongly in education as a social enabler. Over 90 per cent of Singaporean children aged 5 to 6 were enrolled in preschool. Assistance was provided to low-income families for all levels of schooling to equip members of the next generation with the tools they needed to escape poor economic and social conditions. Her Government also provided subsidies and concessionary loans to keep housing affordable, especially for families with young children. Singapore provided short-term and long-term assistance for low-income and vulnerable communities, and had created strong safety nets for those in need. In 2017, social spending had accounted for half of total Government expenditures. All stakeholders needed to be engaged to build inclusive societies that cared for the most

vulnerable and gave all persons a chance to achieve their full potentials.

44. **Mr. Naeemi** (Afghanistan) said that poverty and hunger rates remained high, particularly in the least developed countries. Most of the 1.3 billion people living in poverty around the world lived in rural areas, and half were children. Poverty eradication was slowing due to the global economic slowdown, conflicts and climate change. After four decades of war, just over 50 per cent of Afghans were multidimensionally poor according to the Multidimensional Poverty Index. The peace process would play a crucial role in reducing poverty and achieving the other Sustainable Development Goals. The Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework set out the Government's strategic policy priorities towards self-reliance, including reducing poverty through job creation and addressing widespread related problems such as child malnutrition, access to education and health care, food insecurity, poor sanitation and conflict-related impoverishment.

45. **Ms. Udida** (Nigeria) said that her delegation was concerned that poverty remained widespread in many developing and least developed countries, especially in Africa. Her Government had created a map of poverty in Nigeria that identified the poorest and most vulnerable. It had increased school attendance through programmes offering conditional cash transfers and school meals, and was embarking on education reforms that focused on technical and vocational skills for young people and investment in girls' education. The Government's Enterprise and Empowerment Programme provided easier access to financial services for businesswomen and women's cooperatives. Policies had been put in place to improve the access of rural dwellers to funds from microfinance institutions and banks.

46. Her delegation wished to draw attention to several obstacles to poverty eradication. Certain private enterprises and countries provided safe havens and created incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets. Climate change, which disproportionately affected rural communities in developing countries, had led to significant economic losses for rural households and a reduction in the contribution of agriculture to economic growth. Member States must act not only to stop illicit financial flows but also to reduce greenhouse gas emission as both increased poverty in developing countries.

47. **Ms. Ortez** (Honduras) said that her Government aimed to build a Honduras free of extreme poverty, with quality education and health care and strong social protection systems. To achieve those goals without leaving anyone behind, poverty must be assessed in a



multidimensional way. The current system, whereby per capita income was the sole criterion for measuring poverty, reduced complex realities to a single figure, obscured growing inequalities and prevented development aid from being allocated logically.

48. For the last five years the Government had been implementing a four-pronged plan to improve the lives of all Honduran citizens. The government programme entitled “Everyone’s Plan for a Better Life” was structured around rebuilding peace, generating investment and employment opportunities, assisting families in extreme poverty and fighting corruption and promoting transparency. It encompassed a number of social programmes focused on decent housing, toilets, eco stoves, food security, small-scale entrepreneurship and other areas. Four million Hondurans had already benefited from at least one service provided through the programmes.

49. Honduras was optimistic about the future, but conscious that much needed to be done to improve economic growth, create employment, enhance access to finance, achieve gender equality and ensure that small-scale producers reaped the real benefits of fair trade. Those aspirations required inclusive policies for job creation, fair trade and hunger eradication.

50. **Ms. Oropeza Acosta** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that while poverty and income vulnerability persisted in Bolivia, the percentage of the population that was poor was no longer the majority, and was decreasing year on year. In recent years, Bolivia had set itself the goals of eliminating poverty and reducing inequality, and, in just over a decade, had succeeded in tripling GDP per capita; it was also leading economic growth in the region, with average annual growth of 4 per cent. In 2005, the richest 10 per cent of its population had earned 128 times as much as the poorest 10 per cent; as a result of inequality reduction measures, that factor was now 47. Bolivia had succeeded in reducing extreme poverty by 23 percentage points in the last decade, from 38.5 to 15.2 per cent, and was intent on completely eliminating extreme poverty by 2025. Those advances were accompanied by sustained increases to the national minimum wage and basic wage that were considerably higher than the rate of inflation, as well as a reduction in unemployment.

51. All those achievements were consequences of the nationalization of the natural resources of strategic businesses, a pluralistic economic model and the redistribution of wealth. Through its policy choices, Bolivia had made itself a model for poverty reduction. Her delegation supported the declaration of the Third

United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027).

52. Lastly, recognizing that globally, the face of poverty was rural and female, Bolivia supported ongoing work on resolutions relating to women’s role in development and the eradication of rural poverty, and urged all countries to promote women’s economic empowerment.

53. **Ms. Guo Jingnan** (China) said that despite progress in poverty reduction in recent years, poverty, hunger and resulting diseases and social conflicts continued to plague many countries. Unilateralism, protectionism and the threat of a potential recession only served to increase the challenges faced by developing countries. The international community and the United Nations should firmly support multilateralism and encourage developed countries to fulfil their ODA commitments while also strengthening development partnerships.

54. Over the past 70 years China had lifted over 850 million people out of poverty and had contributed to more than 70 per cent of global poverty reduction. It expected to eliminate rural poverty by 2020, thereby achieving its poverty reduction goal 10 years ahead of schedule. The success of poverty reduction in China was due to people-centred policies adopted by the Government to assist vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities. The targeted measures pursued unleashed the population’s true potential but also incorporated environmental concerns and allowed for a whole-of-society approach. As the world’s largest developing country, China also promoted South-South cooperation and had provided more than RMB 400 billion in assistance with no political strings attached to nearly 170 countries and international organizations around the world.

55. **Mr. Parajuli** (Nepal) said that although extreme poverty had been reduced over the previous few decades, the rate of poverty reduction had slowed and those left behind were becoming increasingly hard to reach. The battle to eradicate poverty would be won or lost in rural areas. According to the 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index, 83 per cent of the world’s 1.3 billion poor people lived in sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia. Addressing poverty in the least developed countries required a focused, concerted, integrated and holistic approach that enhanced productive capacities, promoted inclusive and sustainable industrial development, encouraged structural transformation, supported rural farms and the non-farm economy, put in place social protection floors and promoted innovation. Labour-displacing technologies were one factor in the



widening development divide. He called for a multilateral dialogue to set normative frameworks on digital cooperation and address the impact of new technologies on human resources.

56. Despite its low-income status and limited resources, Nepal had made remarkable progress on reducing poverty and hunger. His Government's fifteenth five-year development plan aimed to reduce poverty even further, but national efforts needed to be supplemented by international support that acknowledged the specific needs of least developed and landlocked least developed countries, and ensured enhanced, predictable and sustained financial and technical support.

57. **Mr. Bayyapu** (India) said that global poverty indicators showed that inequality both among and within nations was stark and growing. Among the contributing factors were structural economic problems, a lack of natural resources, natural disasters, chronic conflicts, a lack of social protection, a lack of access to education and health, unsustainable debt burdens, unfair terms of trade and investment and externally imposed policy choices. Targeted policy interventions were needed to empower marginalized and vulnerable members of society.

58. His country had lifted 271 million people out of poverty between 2006 and 2016. It had instituted the Dhan Jan Yojana financial inclusion scheme, which had created 370 million bank accounts for poor people who had previously been outside the banking system. More than 1.3 billion people had been issued biometric-based identity "Aadhar" cards that could be used in conjunction with smart phone applications for a range of electronic services and direct benefit transfers. In 2018, the Government had instituted the Ayushman Bharat health coverage scheme, which aimed to eventually provide health coverage to 500 million people. The Clean India Mission, the world's largest sanitation programme, had declared in October 2019 that it had successfully eradicated open defecation. The National Nutrition Mission, the world's largest nutrition programme, aimed to eradicate malnutrition in India by 2022. Only by ensuring the welfare and prosperity of those at the bottom of the pyramid could true development be achieved.

59. **Mr. Dorji** (Bhutan) said that as a small landlocked least developed country, Bhutan based its poverty reduction strategy on the concept of Gross National Happiness, which sought to balance economic growth with social development, environmental sustainability and cultural preservation. His country had dramatically reduced both income poverty and multidimensional poverty indicators to the point that it was poised to

graduate from least developed country status in 2023. Nevertheless, Bhutan still counted on international cooperation and solidarity in its effort to eradicate poverty by 2030.

60. His Government had made progress on closing gender gaps in education, health and the labour force. It accorded priority to investing in human capital, which would be crucial in ensuring that its graduation from least developed country status was sustainable and irreversible. Bhutan also intended to continue its education reforms, with a focus on technical and vocational education. It welcomed opportunities to learn from partners with expertise in harnessing advances in science and technology for development.

61. **Ms. Silvera Flores** (Uruguay) said that discrimination and violence against women were manifested at home, in public spaces, educational establishments and workplaces, decisively limiting women's ability to generate incomes, start businesses, overcome poverty and develop both professionally and personally. One third of Latin American women did not earn an income and were economically dependent; nearly half had no link to the labour market. Moreover, in spite of recent efforts to bridge the wage gap, women were paid 16.1 per cent less than men for the same kind of work, a gap that increased in proportion to level of education.

62. Her Government was taking steps to redress those inequalities. It had integrated a cross-cutting gender perspective into its national plan for productive transformation and competitiveness. Under the Transform Uruguay initiative, the Government had put in place various instruments that exclusively benefited women: a fund for women's rural sustainable development initiatives; a women's entrepreneurship programme that offered non-reimbursable funds to women entrepreneurs involved in productive chains of ministerial interest; and a programme to facilitate access to financing for young women cooperative leaders with technically and financially viable proposals.

63. However, the problems women faced went beyond a lack of financial inclusion: despite their growing participation in local parliaments, women continued to be underrepresented in most decision-making bodies, only comprising a quarter of ministers of State, for example. Furthermore, not only had it been impossible to stop femicide in the Latin American region, but the practice did not appear to be diminishing, in spite of the significant regulatory and policy advances made by various countries. The rate of teenage pregnancy in the region was among the highest in the world. It was meaningless to talk about women and development

without first addressing gender equality and women's full enjoyment of their human, sexual and reproductive rights.

64. **Mr. Gertze** (Namibia) said that poverty eradication remained a priority of his country, even though it was in the fourth consecutive year of its worst drought ever, which had brought about severe water stress and household food insecurity. Despite the drought response plan launched by his Government in 2019, the adverse conditions had caused a decline in agricultural exports and revenue.

65. While Namibia embraced the increasing participation by developing countries in world trade, it was important to note the ways in which globalization had contributed to rising poverty and inequality. Unilateral economic measures were only adding to growing discontent over globalization. As Namibia diversified its industrial base with a view to increasing exports, multilateral trade cooperation was needed to ensure that the global poverty reduction efforts were not undermined by protectionist tendencies.

66. His country was extremely concerned about the challenges faced by small businesses, which contributed immensely to the reduction of poverty in developing countries. He urged the international community to enforce curbs on anti-competitive behaviours. Namibia recognized the potential of digital transformation to improve governance and social services. His Government had also implemented a programme to build the capacity of women micro-entrepreneurs and encouraged Member States to recognize the role of women in building peaceful and sustainable societies.

67. **Mr. Umarov** (Kazakhstan) said that his delegation welcomed the overall decrease in extreme poverty, but expressed concern that progress in least developed countries, conflict and post-conflict countries, and many middle-income countries was being impeded by widening social, economic and technological inequality, high unemployment, climate-related disasters, the global debt crisis and the digital divide. His country had experienced significant income growth and poverty reduction, although rural poverty rates remained close to three times as high as urban poverty rates. Women's participation in small and medium-sized businesses had increased significantly over the previous five years.

68. Despite its considerable progress, Kazakhstan could not achieve its ambitious poverty-reduction goals without help. He called upon the international community and the United Nations to take steps to ensure that sufficient, sustainable and predictable financial resources were provided to all countries lagging behind in the push to eradicate poverty.

69. **Ms. Gomes Monteiro** (Cabo Verde) said that the Committee's discussions should reflect the multiple dimensions of poverty. Her country was a small island developing State with structural barriers to poverty reduction that were exacerbated by vulnerability to weather events. Nevertheless, it had achieved remarkable economic growth in the previous three decades and implemented social inclusion policies that had reduced inequality. Her Government's Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development 2017–2021, which anticipated a transition to high middle-income status, was fully in line with the 2030 Agenda and focused on inclusion, environmental sustainability and social protections. Cabo Verde was also committed to achieving its intended nationally determined contribution to climate change mitigation and carbon neutrality.

70. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (Nicaragua) said that unilateral coercive economic measures violated international law and the human rights of the citizens of the countries they affected. They prevented countries from achieving sustainable development and should be condemned. Nicaragua had been working in a sustained manner to eradicate poverty and, through its economic and social projects and programmes, had succeeded in reducing poverty from 42.5 per cent in 2009 to 24.9 per cent in 2016, and extreme poverty from 14.6 per cent in 2009 to 6.9 per cent in 2016. The developed countries must fulfil their ODA commitments and provide additional, predictable and adequate financial resources. Eradicating poverty was an urgent need, but it could not be achieved without political will and solidarity.

71. **Mr. Lenanguy Brinz** (Central African Republic) said that eradicating extreme poverty had been at the heart of the economic and social development policies implemented by his country's successive Governments. The restoration of constitutional order in 2016 had made it possible to adopt the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, which included a poverty reduction strategy focused on education, basic socioeconomic infrastructure and job creation in disadvantaged and poor regions. The Central African Republic had chosen to focus on Sustainable Development Goal target 1.2: "By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions"; and target 1.4: "By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance". The Local Authorities Act of 2016 would be conducive to poverty reduction among

vulnerable populations. Nevertheless, the combination of conflict, deforestation and climate-change-related natural disasters had brought about a 50 per cent increase in the number of people suffering from food insecurity between 2015 and 2018. Lessons learned from two generations of poverty reduction strategy papers and national efforts would inform future poverty eradication efforts.

72. **Mr. Folivi** (Togo) said that there remained an enormous gap between the poverty eradication ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and realities on the ground. The global economic downturn, conflicts, climate change and natural disasters had all exacerbated poverty, and the situation was made worse by international trade tensions and inadequate financing to tackle extreme poverty, especially in rural areas and among the most vulnerable social groups. At the international level, multilateral cooperation was needed to mobilize financial and technical resources. At the national level, States needed to develop policies that promoted the participation of women and the empowerment of young people. His country had launched a number of programmes that focused on empowering the most disadvantaged groups, and had already achieved notable success in increasing economic participation among women and young people.

73. **Ms. Hlaing** (Myanmar) said that the Secretary-General's reports had showed that accelerated and concrete actions were urgently needed to address the multidimensional nature of poverty. Her country, which was implementing comprehensive strategies that went further than simply stimulating economic growth, had seen its poverty rates cut in half between 2005 and 2017. With a majority of its population living in rural areas, Myanmar placed a high priority on developing agricultural productivity and ensuring the delivery of infrastructure and services to remote areas. The Government also focused on making microfinance available in rural areas. Market-oriented regulatory reforms had helped the Myanmar economy to become one of the region's fastest growing economies. The Government had adopted a road map for financial inclusion and had taken steps to ensure the kind of private-sector participation that was essential if global efforts to end poverty were to succeed. The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018–2030 had laid out an integrated set of goals, strategies and action plans for equitable and balanced development in line with the 2030 Agenda. The Government had been implementing a strategic plan to improve education and accorded a high priority to women's economic empowerment.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*