



General Assembly

Seventy-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
13 December 2022

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 14th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 12 October 2022, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Al-Thani (Vice-Chair). (Qatar)
later: Ms. Stoeva. (Bulgaria)
later: Ms. Cassar. (Malta)
later: Ms. Stoeva. (Bulgaria)

Contents

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)
- (b) Industrial development cooperation
- (c) Women in development
- (d) Human resources development
- (e) Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Agenda item 24: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

22-23149 (E)



Please recycle



In the absence of Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria), Mr. Al-Thani (Qatar), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 22: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (A/77/219)

- (a) Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) (A/77/176)**
- (b) Industrial development cooperation (A/77/138)**
- (c) Women in development (A/77/243)**
- (d) Human resources development (A/77/234)**
- (e) Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/77/209)**

Agenda item 24: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/77/70-E/2022/49 and A/77/241)

1. **Ms. Urosevic** (Executive Director, World Tourism Organization), speaking via video link, introduced the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization on the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environmental protection (A/77/219). She said that, as the international community implemented the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and addressed the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had served as a reminder of how interdependent the world had become. Owing to its interlinkages with nearly all other economic sectors, tourism had been one of the sectors hardest hit by the pandemic, but major efforts had been undertaken by Member States to continue to promote sustainable tourism for poverty eradication and environmental protection. Tourism offered significant opportunities for development and was a priority sector in many countries as an engine of growth, providing direct and multiplier effects for job creation and poverty reduction and a focus on environmental conservation and restoration and the enhancement of well-being and livelihoods. It was a major source of income, foreign currency earnings, tax revenue and employment, especially in small island States and developing countries, accounting for over 20 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP). The sector supported millions of direct and indirect jobs, in particular for women and young people.

2. However, in order to continue to support inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, the sector must become more sustainable and resilient

through transformative change, with global action to halt biodiversity loss, enhance the climate ambition of tourism stakeholders and limit the effects of climate change and pollution. A healthy environment was critical for the competitiveness of the sector, and it was necessary to integrate circularity and advance transformation and innovation along the tourism value chain. The pandemic had spurred digital transformation and technology adoption, affecting and providing jobs and skills in the tourism sector and highlighting the urgency of national capacity-building and of bridging the digital divide.

3. Two areas were highlighted in the report for further policy guidance by the Committee. First, a high-level thematic event on tourism could become a regular feature of statutory consultation on tourism within the United Nations system, helping to maximize the contribution of tourism to the sustainability agenda. Second, in order to better reflect sustainable tourism as a broader concept, emphasize a resilience-oriented understanding of sustainability, echo the magnitude of the challenge caused by recent crises and strengthen the overall recovery and transformation of the tourism sector, the title of the General Assembly resolution could be changed to “Promotion of sustainable and resilient tourism for development” and its content adjusted accordingly.

4. **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), as contained in document A/77/176, said that the world was facing unprecedented challenges, including increased poverty, socioeconomic inequalities and food insecurity, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine and climate change. The combined effects of the pandemic and the conflict were expected to result in a net increase of 75 million to 95 million people in extreme poverty by the end of 2022 compared with pre-pandemic projections; and climate change, if uncurbed, would place up to 130 million people in poverty over the next 10 years. External shocks such as the pandemic made it more likely for people living just above the extreme poverty level, including workers in the informal sector and vulnerable jobs, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities, all of whom were unable to manage uninsured risks, to fall into poverty. In contrast, long-term government policies and emergency measures, such as public assistance in health care, education and social protection and intervention in the labour market, to mitigate the impacts of such shocks, played a role in keeping people out of poverty.

5. The policy recommendations made in the report included the following: (a) implementing inclusive policies such as economic diversification, industrialization, structural economic transformation and investment in green and ocean economies; (b) building stronger health systems and working towards universal health coverage and health security; (c) increasing investment in human capital, including in inclusive social protection, quality education, training and decent job creation, especially for young people, women, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities; (d) combating climate change; and (e) increasing investment in gender- and disability-sensitive infrastructure, including information and communications technology. The international community, including the United Nations system, must strengthen multilateral cooperation for universal progress and resilience by providing affordable development assistance and debt relief to the countries most affected by the ongoing crises, especially countries in Africa, the least developed countries and other low-income countries.

6. **Mr. Müller** (Executive Director, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)), in a pre-recorded video statement, introduced the report of the Director General of UNIDO on industrial development cooperation (A/77/138). He said that the poorest had been hardest hit by the multiple crises of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, rising hunger and poverty and global energy and food insecurity. There was an urgent need to advance the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 9 and other industry-related Goals in the face of challenges caused by the current crises, and affordable, practical and realistic solutions already existed. Industrialization had lifted millions of people out of poverty and was a powerful tool for job creation, income generation, economic diversification and innovation. Indeed, innovation, digitalization and modern technologies were key to solving many of the greatest challenges.

7. The most important priority was to fight hunger and poverty, since some 800 million people were currently hungry and needed urgent support. Local value creation was required to give young women and men prospects, decent jobs and fair wages. Another priority was the climate and energy challenge. Most of the 800 million people without energy access lived in sub-Saharan Africa. Since development could not be achieved without energy, it was necessary to support the transition to clean energy and facilitate partnerships for investment in transformative solutions, such as green hydrogen. Production and consumption patterns must also change, moving from a linear model of production, use and waste to a circular economy, which would have

benefits for businesses everywhere and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent by 2050.

8. Sustainable and inclusive industrial development could be a powerful response to many global challenges. Enhanced international cooperation and solidarity were needed to share knowledge and technologies and accelerate support, including through UNIDO, which could be a central platform to mobilize partnerships and investment and foster the international exchange of ideas, innovation, knowledge and transformative technologies.

9. **Ms. Hordosch** (Policy Adviser, Policy, Programme and Intergovernmental Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on women in development (A/77/243), said that, despite progress in reducing gender inequality, the commitments made in 1995 in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action had not been met, with significant gender gaps remaining. It was unlikely that the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5 on gender equality, would be achieved by 2030 without decisive action. Discriminatory laws and policies and negative social norms continued to impede the full and equal participation of women in the economy. In 190 countries, women had only three quarters of the legal rights of men, meaning that 2.4 million women of working age lacked equal economic opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic had exposed unprecedented challenges for the economic empowerment of women and could reverse progress in achieving the Goals. Its lingering impacts and the sluggish recovery had been exacerbated by rising inflation and the effects of the war in Ukraine, which could push a further 75 million to 95 million people, mostly women, into extreme poverty in 2022. The pandemic had deepened gender inequalities in employment, negatively affecting economic sectors in which female workers were overrepresented and contributing to a shadow pandemic of escalating violence against women and girls.

10. Although Governments had taken decisive and innovative steps to address the challenges, the response had been insufficient. The measures taken by most countries to contain COVID-19, boost health and social security systems and support economies, institutions and households with fiscal stimulus and economic recovery packages had not been designed with a gender lens. Owing to increasing inequalities between and within countries, rising debt levels and shrinking fiscal space in developing nations, there had been insufficient measures to meet the needs and fulfil the rights of women and girls. Nevertheless, it had become increasingly evident that an inclusive and sustainable

recovery from the pandemic was only possible with gender equality at the centre of social protection and labour market policies. Governments needed to enact such policies as part of their sustainable development and gender equality plans.

11. The recommendations provided in the report included the following: (a) eradicating women's and girls' poverty by supporting and investing in women's jobs, incomes and livelihoods and reducing their disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work; (b) promoting the equal participation of women in labour markets, decision-making and leadership in the public and private sectors by addressing structural barriers and removing discriminatory laws, social norms and practices; (c) eliminating the gender pay gap and gender-based discrimination at work; (d) ensuring access by women, especially young women, to decent work and entrepreneurship, including by formalizing jobs and enterprises in the informal economy and expanding gender-responsive social protection floors and systems to reach all women and girls; and (e) promoting and protecting the right of women and girls to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, and implementing measures to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and harassment in public and private spaces.

12. **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/77/234](#)), said that political commitments, scientific progress and advocacy had provided the foundation for advancements in health, education and employment: people were living longer and had better access to education, there had been significant reductions in gender gaps, and technological advancements had benefited employment and provided new opportunities in everyday life. Those developments had generally helped the most advantaged communities, a tendency that had increased in recent years owing to various external shocks.

13. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General, there had been significant changes in the human condition, as the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflicts and climate change had affected people's well-being, ambitions, aspirations and health, as well as the way in which they learned, worked and lived together. The recent shocks were already having the greatest impact on vulnerable groups, causing increased inequalities and hampering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of long-term sustainability, and further impacts would be felt in the future. In the report, three

main areas for new policy guidance were highlighted. First, in addition to the current short-term shocks, long-term developments such as increased migration and new patterns of migration, shifting demography, urbanization and technological advances were affecting people's lives, and it was therefore essential to integrate critical and creative thinking and sustainable awareness into lifelong education efforts in order to foster a culture of resilience and adaptability, including through the use of technology and digitalization for learners and workers. Second, long-term resilience for human resources development required the anchoring of efforts throughout society, by making policies more holistic and inclusive and involving all stakeholders, as was the case for the One Health approach, which combined measures on climate change, the environment, mental well-being and physical health. Lastly, multilateral cooperation to address cross-border challenges was more important than ever.

14. **Mr. Torero Cullen** (Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), speaking via video link, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda ([A/77/209](#)). He said that, as noted in the report, more than 80 per cent of the world's extreme poor and 84 per cent of those in acute multidimensional poverty lived in rural areas. Most depended on agrifood systems and natural resources for their livelihoods, making them more exposed to the overexploitation of natural resources and climate change. The rural poor experienced social exclusion and geographical remoteness, resulting in low levels of access to education, health and social protection and in higher food insecurity and nutrition rates than in urban areas. They also owned fewer assets, including land, and had inadequate access to productive resources, decent work opportunities and basic infrastructure. Their situation was exacerbated by structural inequalities. Global income inequality had increased for the first time in 20 years, with evidence showing that high inequality levels undermined the impact of economic growth on reducing poverty and prevented the rural poor from participating in and benefiting from development, with rural women, rural working migrants, family farmers and Indigenous Peoples disproportionately affected.

15. The COVID-19 pandemic had reversed hard-won gains in poverty reduction, with a disproportionate impact on the most socially and economically vulnerable populations, the majority of whom lived in rural areas, as their incomes and job losses were recovering at a slower rate than those of the richest. The economic slowdown and rising food and energy prices had also increased existing structural inequalities, and

measures to support the recovery of livelihoods often failed to reach the extreme poor, especially in rural areas. To reverse that scenario, greater ambition was needed for transformative action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1, on ending poverty, in rural areas. Member States might wish to consider stepping up efforts to eradicate rural poverty, including by addressing income and wealth inequalities, and taking immediate action to prevent people from falling into poverty in the short term, in addition to longer-term, inclusive, rights-based, multisectoral and sustainable policies to address structural inequalities in rural areas. Furthermore, it was essential to: (a) scale up investment in transforming agrifood systems and promoting inclusive and sustainable low-emission industrialization pathways; (b) ensure access to productive assets, decent work opportunities, social protection, quality education and health, improved rural infrastructure and digital and financial services; (c) ensure that such investments reached family farmers and small-scale producers, rural women and young people, migrants and Indigenous Peoples; and (d) improve disaggregated data collection to better inform policymaking in order to accelerate the eradication of rural poverty and implement the 2030 Agenda. Agriculture and food systems were important in promoting rural livelihoods, decent work and empowered communities, as highlighted at the United Nations Food Systems Summit, and efforts to transform agrifood systems across the rural-urban continuum must involve the poorest and enable equitable access to land, water resources and markets, including by promoting sustainable low-emission industrialization pathways in line with national mitigation and adaptation priorities.

16. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/77/241), he said that the COVID-19 pandemic had exposed the fragility of agrifood systems, and recovery efforts were currently not at the scale necessary to achieve food security and good nutrition. Even though the pandemic and the related restrictive measures were coming to an end, global hunger rates continued to rise, reflecting the persistence of structural inequality in the economic recovery. In 2021, there were 46 million more people experiencing chronic undernourishment than in 2020 and 150 million more than before the pandemic. In addition, undernourishment had increased by almost 2 per cent since the beginning of the pandemic, and 3.1 billion people could not afford healthy diets. The nutritional situation was therefore clearly alarming, despite some progress in addressing stunting, wasting and overweight, and might even be worse than reported, since some data were not available during the pandemic. Conflicts were another major driver of acute food insecurity.

17. Structural inequalities persisted in food systems, with the share of poverty, hunger and food insecurity highest among those dependent on agriculture for a living. Small-scale food producers, including family farmers and agricultural workers, were particularly exposed as their income and opportunities were lower than those of medium- and large-scale producers. Access to resources was unequal, with land increasingly concentrated in larger farms, which managed over 70 per cent of arable land despite accounting for only 1 per cent of all farms. The cost of healthy diets had increased steadily, with an estimated 80 per cent of Africans unable to afford them. Inequality in wealth distribution made it unlikely for small-scale food producers to benefit from the rise in food prices, owing to increased energy prices. Women were more exposed to poverty and food insecurity because they had fewer opportunities, less access to productive resources and lower average incomes than men. While the youth population was expected to triple by 2050, the rural sector was aging owing to a lack of opportunities for young people, and there was insufficient investment to support their innovation potential in rural economies.

18. Some progress had been achieved in the sustainable management of natural resources, in particular water and forests, but genetic diversity and ecosystem restoration targets were far from being met. Climate change affected production capability owing to extreme temperatures, increased rainfall and flooding and variability in pest behaviour, and further efforts were required to improve the contribution of agriculture to climate change mitigation and adaptation. In addition, small and medium-sized enterprises faced trade and investment challenges, with lower access to investment and lower capacity for innovation and digitalization. Although global trade proved resilient during the pandemic, with only short-term disruptions to value chains, investment in agriculture decreased as resources were diverted to address pandemic-related needs. The wide-ranging implications of the war in Ukraine were threatening the livelihoods of more than 1 billion people and hampering the capacity of countries, especially developing countries, to mobilize the resources necessary to support economic recovery and implement measures to sustain the livelihoods of the most vulnerable.

19. To reverse such trends, the interconnectedness of economic, social and environmental impacts on agrifood systems must be acknowledged, along with the need for greater ambition and efforts to achieve sustainable and resilient food systems. With comprehensive, cross-cutting and multistakeholder approaches, the goal of ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030 should not be out of reach. Decision-makers might consider the

following: (a) ensuring that measures were in place to correct trade distortions and disruptions and improve the availability of agricultural commodities and inputs by increasing resilience through the protection, sustainable management and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems; (b) building the resilience of systems and people through capacity-building, the dissemination of good practices for adaptive agriculture, investment in data-led forecasting, science and innovation, comprehensive mapping and the promotion of digitalization; (c) addressing gaps in early warning and early action systems, increasing preparedness, strengthening links between humanitarian and development assistance and addressing inequalities; (d) empowering rural actors, especially women, young people, Indigenous Peoples and small-scale food producers, by improving access to knowledge, resources, assets and services and safeguarding their livelihoods through targeted policies and interventions; and (e) improving the availability of and access to reliable and disaggregated data for decision-making, including to promote investment and maximize the contribution of agriculture to inclusive economic growth. It was of paramount importance for countries to convert the commitments made at the United Nations Food Systems Summit into action, with technical expertise available from the United Nations system, including FAO, and its partners to accelerate transformation through low-cost, high-impact interventions.

20. *Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria) took the Chair.*

21. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that about 1 billion people – almost 15 per cent of the world's population – survived in conditions of poverty, lacking the income and capability needed to live in dignity. As the most pervasive violation of human rights and the root cause of socioeconomic instability and political and security problems, poverty led to massive human suffering, and it was only right that it should feature as the first Sustainable Development Goal.

22. Although poverty had visibly declined over the past 30 years, recent crises had pushed approximately 100 million people into extreme poverty, eroding progress in eradicating it. As Nelson Mandela had said, poverty was not natural, but caused by humans, and could be overcome by human action. The 26 richest people in the world currently owned as much wealth as half the global population. Whereas richer nations had mobilized over \$17 trillion in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, developing countries were struggling to find even a fraction of the \$4.3 trillion needed to recover from it and achieve the Goals. Furthermore, it was ironic that countries that had contributed the least to climate

degradation were suffering the most from climate change-related poverty. Faced with the scale of the crisis, Governments had planned or implemented over 3,000 social protection measures during the pandemic, such as direct cash transfers, but the upsurge in food and energy prices required additional financial and logistical support and investment, including through coordinated action by the international community that built on General Assembly resolution 76/264 on the state of global food insecurity. Food producers must be given adequate access to seeds, fertilizers and finance to expand local and national food production. Since 220 million full-time jobs had been lost, it was necessary to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work.

23. The systemic causes of poverty – conflict, forced displacement and socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities – must be addressed. Finance, production and trade structures must be made fair and equitable, exploitation of the natural resources of poorer countries must stop and international law must be enforced and respected in order for poorer countries to achieve their fair share of global development. In addition, financial resources must be mobilized for developing countries through sound debt management, the rechanneling of unused special drawing rights, the issuance of additional such rights and the expansion of grants and concessional finance, in particular for countries in extreme financial difficulty or suffering from natural or human-made disasters. Achievement of the Goals could be accelerated through major investments in sustainable infrastructure and new technologies and by bridging the digital divide to enable developing countries to follow a modern, inclusive development paradigm. Developed countries must fulfil their commitments to provide financial, technological and capacity-building support aimed at eradicating poverty and achieving the Goals, and unilateral coercive measures against developing countries must also be lifted.

24. **Ms. Motsumi** (Botswana), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that the world was moving backwards in efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition owing to the challenging and uncertain context brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the worsening economic outlook. Current growth paths must be transformed in order to achieve poverty eradication and the other Sustainable Development Goals, through coherent and integrated national and international policy frameworks.

25. A substantial gender gap also persisted, in particular with regard to employment, food security and Internet use in landlocked developing countries, and

women had been especially exposed to the negative social, health and economic impacts of the pandemic. Furthermore, the pandemic had demonstrated the importance of digital technologies and had accelerated their adoption, but in 2021, when the Internet was most needed, the usage rate in landlocked developing countries had been 34.7 per cent compared with a global average of 63 per cent, owing mainly to the high cost and limited affordability of broadband access.

26. The international community and development partners must support landlocked developing countries in expanding social protection programmes and strengthening social safety nets to prevent vulnerable groups from falling deeper into poverty. To achieve the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, as well as the Goals, the following actions were key: (a) ensuring that safety nets were gender-responsible; (b) enhancing women's access to training and credit; (c) increasing their rights to property and land; and (d) ensuring that men and women had equal access to food, employment and technology. The international community must provide quick balance-of-payment and budget support with limited conditionality so that landlocked developing countries could adequately address the challenges, and must also enhance its humanitarian and technical support, both financially and in kind, to provide food security and livelihoods and strengthen global value and supply chains.

27. **Ms. Chimbiri Molande** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that those countries were bearing the brunt of the interlocking challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the unrelenting climate crisis. They were recovering slowly from the pandemic, and poverty remained a major development challenge. Some 251 million people in the least developed countries were already food-insecure, and more people from those countries were forecast to be pushed into food insecurity and extreme poverty by the end of 2022. Famine was looming in the Horn of Africa, and several countries in conflict or post-conflict situations were already experiencing a humanitarian crisis, further aggravated by shortfalls in grain and fertilizers and rising energy costs.

28. Eradicating extreme poverty was one of the overarching goals of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. To do so, it was first necessary to enhance productive capacity and access to markets in order to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth. International support and partnerships, including South-South cooperation, were crucial in promoting technology transfer, foreign direct investment

and infrastructure development, providing technical assistance and aid for trade and building the human and institutional capacity of the least developed countries. Another important tool was development financing, including easy access to predictable climate financing, especially for adaptation. Official development assistance (ODA), currently below the United Nations target of 0.15–0.2 per cent, must be scaled up, and action was also needed on debt relief. Third, effective social protection systems and universal access to quality education and skills development were necessary for the least developed countries to boost human capital and productivity, reduce inequalities, build resilience and end the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Lastly, agricultural productive capacity and food self-sufficiency needed to be enhanced by investing in rural sustainable infrastructure, harnessing science, technology and innovation, facilitating access to inputs and credit markets, improving agricultural value chains and leveraging regional and global trade. Eradicating poverty was central to inclusive, sustainable and resilient development, and there was no time to waste in taking action.

29. Speaking in her national capacity, she welcomed the realization by the speakers that most people living in poverty resided in rural areas where infrastructure and social and financial services were inexistent or minimal. The Committee should examine the need for global and national institutions not only to review their governing policies, rules and regulations in order to ensure that those furthest behind could participate in decision-making processes, but also to deliver development interventions differently by focusing on building infrastructure in places where the rural poor lived.

30. **Mr. Dang Hoang Giang** (Viet Nam), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that agriculture was a key sector in South-East Asia, providing employment for as much as 30 per cent of the region's population and 12 per cent of its GDP, and contributing significantly to poverty alleviation, malnutrition reduction, hunger eradication and sustainable development. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and the food crisis in 2022 had caused substantial harm to agricultural production, distribution and livelihoods; food security therefore required urgent attention and action. ASEAN was committed to strengthening regional food security through strategic action plans and frameworks on food, nutrition, agriculture, forestry and rural development, with support and policy recommendations from the United Nations system.

31. Poverty eradication was a key priority for ASEAN, and it had made progress in pursuing initiatives to leverage regional cooperation for inclusive rural and

urban development, promoting trade and investment, enhancing business leadership and educational and human resources development and fostering closer partnerships between Governments and the private sector. It had also implemented a strategic action plan on small and medium-sized enterprises to focus on access to markets, finance and skills.

32. Vulnerability to climate change, which was closely linked to poverty alleviation and food security, was a major concern for ASEAN, one of the most at-risk regions. ASEAN reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement under the Convention, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

33. **Mr. Edokpa** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the African Union had set an ambitious target of eliminating hunger and food insecurity by 2025, as reflected in both Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, but the continent was not currently on track to meet the target. Food systems were particularly sensitive to conflict and to environmental, health and economic shocks, which had the potential to create a food crisis in Africa. For example, the impacts of climate change and geopolitical tensions had driven up prices of wheat, bread and fertilizer and had led to a shortage of other supplies. Even before the crisis, millions in Africa had lacked access to safe and sufficient food, clean water, energy and other basic needs.

34. To eliminate hunger and food insecurity in Africa, it was necessary to address interdependencies in terms of agriculture, development, economic growth, family and smallholder farming, international trade, social protection systems and emerging crises by tackling severe problem areas simultaneously. The task of increasing supply to all segments of the population involved technical solutions such as improved seed, fertilizer and irrigation systems. Africa must strengthen its food systems through immediate, mutually reinforcing interventions to eliminate poverty and food insecurity. In the short term, it must minimize disruption to intra-African supply chains, while medium- and long-term approaches should include integrating global support and partnerships by enhancing statistics, data and digital technologies. The United Nations development system could help to strengthen the impact of solutions by improving the alignment of global policies with regional and national priorities and

considering different realities. Financial and non-financial resources needed to be mobilized to develop the agriculture, fisheries, forest and food processing sectors and effectively channelled towards integrated interventions rather than segregated improvements. It was also essential to invest in new technologies and practices, including improved seeds and animal breeds adapted to the changing climate and modern storage and harvest management systems. Climate-smart and biodiversity-resilient practices must be promoted, including to manage disaster risk while strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in fragile settings. Address cross-cutting factors such as conflict and weak institutional structures was also key, and all stakeholders must accelerate efforts to support sustainable agriculture and food systems in Africa by strengthening agricultural productivity, boosting domestic production and supporting energy access. Lastly, innovative solutions should be linked to existing initiatives and reinforce regional and national frameworks aimed at boosting economic integration and trade, including the African Continental Free Trade Area, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative.

35. **Mr. Almoslechner** (Austria), speaking also on behalf of Ethiopia, said that, as Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, the two countries welcomed the inclusion of the agenda item "Industrial development cooperation" in the programme of work of the Second Committee for its seventy-seventh session, at a time when industrialization seemed more important than ever as a key enabler of sustainable development. The ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions and conflicts and the triple planetary crisis had reversed decades of progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, which represented the largest business sector in developing countries and a significant share of businesses in developed countries, were disproportionately affected, and recovery remained uneven around the world. A special focus on women, young people and entrepreneurs in the informal sector was also needed. As underlined by UNIDO, industrial capabilities, in particular digital production technologies, were of fundamental importance in terms of resilience and preparation for the future. Industrialization had lifted millions out of poverty by providing jobs and income, and the close link between inclusive and sustainable industrial development and long-term economic, social and environmental development remained both valid and undeniable. Strengthened food security, access to sustainable energy

and decarbonization, fair supply chains and the capacity to manufacture essential health products locally would be even more important in the future.

36. As the custodian agency of Sustainable Development Goal 9, on industry, innovation and infrastructure, UNIDO was mandated to support countries in promoting industrial development cooperation, and it had called upon the international community to build momentum for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the lead-up to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2023 and the Summit of the Future in 2024, as well as in the context of the forthcoming *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023* and the next Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up.

37. **Mr. Pérez Ayestarán** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations, said that eradicating poverty and ending hunger had long been the main priorities of the international community and were at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, which was the road map not only to achieving more peaceful, just and inclusive societies but also to overcoming common challenges and realizing the inalienable right to development. However, those goals were now even further from reach, with more than 700 million people living in extreme poverty and more than 820 million suffering from hunger. The situation had been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and was expected to deteriorate even further in the light of existing challenges such as climate change and the crisis affecting the global economy, supply chains and transport costs. Furthermore, the possible repercussions of ongoing geopolitical tensions were worrying because they not only exacerbated already difficult socioeconomic conditions but also led to greater uncertainty and affected the cost of basic products such as food and energy.

38. The continued implementation of unilateral coercive measures was aggravating global challenges and undermining national efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, in flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter and international law. Given their wide scope, extraterritorial implications and systemic nature, such illegal measures were deliberately exacerbating the multifaceted crisis and would continue to cause prolonged human suffering unless they were immediately brought to an end, enabling all nations to fully realize their productive potential and contribute to overcoming current challenges. The illegal application of unilateral coercive measures directed at the civil population, as part of a general policy that resulted in

unnecessary suffering, amounted to a crime against humanity and prevented the full achievement of economic and social development. Not only was it a deliberate attack on the right to development, but it also created and aggravated poverty and inequality in affected countries, including by making it almost impossible to purchase equipment or parts for agricultural development. The World Health Organization had recognized that such measures jeopardized global food security, and several other United Nations entities had reaffirmed that the measures led to increased food prices. Only by eliminating them could the current food crisis be overcome.

39. The Group welcomed the establishment of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance and called for it to assess the negative impact of unilateral sanctions on the global crisis. The path to overcoming the current challenges was not to impose unilateral coercive measures or unjustified and arbitrary trade restrictions, but to adopt joint measures that were effective, inclusive and innovative, in accordance with the Charter and international law.

40. **Ms. Baimarro** (Sierra Leone) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had led to the first increase in extreme poverty since 1998, pushing an additional 77 million people into extreme poverty and stalling progress in ending extreme poverty by three or four years globally and by eight or nine years in low-income countries. It had exposed gaps and failures in social protection systems as well as structural inequalities and various forms of discrimination that deepened and perpetuated poverty. Renewed collective action was needed to increase agricultural production and productivity in order to combat hunger, malnutrition and poverty, the greatest challenges currently facing the world. Almost 12 per cent of the global population, or 928 million people, had been severely food insecure in 2020, 148 million more than in 2019; and nearly one in three people in the world had not had access to adequate food in 2020, an increase of approximately 320 million since the previous year. More than 90 per cent of stunting and wasting children and more than 70 per cent of overweight children were in Africa and Asia.

41. Sierra Leone had experienced similar trends, with 2 million people in a state of chronic hunger and 1.1 million in a state of acute hunger in 2021 out of a total population of 8.2 million. In order to end hunger and transform the country's agricultural sector, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry had embarked on strategic policy shifts to increase the amount of land under cultivation and boost yields. The interventions were aimed at establishing an enabling environment that promoted private sector investment in agriculture,

reduced inefficiencies in service delivery and protected smallholder farmers, and included private sector-led farm mechanization, an agricultural credit facility for importing agricultural inputs, a wallet system to foster efficiency and transparency and an expanded extension strategy to provide information to farmers to assist with decision-making, boost production and generate income.

42. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that while the world clearly had sufficient capacity and resources to ensure adequate nutrition for everyone, the reality was that more than 800 million people were chronically undernourished worldwide. Consequently, the international community was lagging behind in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 2 to end hunger. The situation as a whole was caused by unequal globalization, which increased wealth inequality on the planet. Indeed, growing prosperity in the developed world over the past decades had not improved the food and nutrition situation in many developing countries. In addition, in many parts of the world ongoing multiple conflicts and crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, were preventing the eradication of poverty and thus the provision of adequate nutrition for all people. Negative climate change processes were also systematically undermining global food security.

43. Restrictive trade measures were another factor contributing to the lack of global food security. The economic restrictions and sanctions imposed by Western Governments against Belarus and Russia, without a mandate from the United Nations, had led to a sharp reduction in the supply of fertilizers and grain on international markets. Those restrictions had triggered a chain of events that had ultimately caused the current crisis of global food security and hunger for millions of people in developing countries. The current food crisis could not in fact be solved unless fertilizers and food from Belarus and Russia were allowed unfettered access to the international markets. His delegation therefore called on those States that imposed illegal and unilateral restrictive measures against other countries to abandon such detrimental policies.

44. Belarus advocated consolidating efforts by the international community to combat hunger and also attached great importance to strengthening national food security. To that end, agricultural production was being improved, a sustainable, advanced and innovative national agrifood sector had been established and, on the basis, Belarus was providing humanitarian aid to other States in need on a bilateral basis. His country stood ready to continue contributing to global food security by providing global markets with a wide range of food products, fertilizers and agricultural equipment, and by

sharing its experience and training specialists. Belarus was committed to working with FAO and other relevant international organizations to promote agricultural development and national food security.

45. **Mr. Al-thani** (Qatar) said that poverty and inequality were being exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and conflict escalation. The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries placed great emphasis on poverty eradication. The second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, scheduled to be held in March 2023 in Doha, would be an opportunity bring about changes in the lives of millions and create momentum for achievement by the least developed countries of the Sustainable Development Goals.

46. He was proud to announce that Qatar had just been elected to a three-year term as president of the Executive Board of the Islamic Organization for Food Security. The Qatar Fund for Development had just contributed \$90 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) to respond to urgent needs in Yemen, on top of a \$10 million core contribution for critical food security needs. The Nanmo (“growing together”) initiative launched by the Fund in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation had pledged \$200 million to help smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa deal with the challenges posed by climate change. The Fund had also made contributions totalling \$50 million to the “Living and livelihood” fund initiative, launched in conjunction with the Islamic Development Bank and other donors, which focused on the three areas of agriculture, health and infrastructure.

47. **Mr. Pechploy** (Thailand) said that the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and ongoing geopolitical tensions had exacerbated inequalities and had set in motion a three-dimensional food, energy and finance crisis, taking a heavy toll on the most vulnerable groups in developing countries and threatening to derail hard-won progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. To implement the 2030 Agenda, it was necessary to safeguard multilateralism by facilitating constructive dialogue and improving policy coordination among United Nations system entities and other stakeholders in order to avert the largest food crisis in history. In advancing the seamless cross-border flow of food, fertilizers and essential goods, it was critical that all countries kept their supply chains open and refrained from imposing export restrictions inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules. Thailand therefore welcome efforts to establish a marine corridor for the safe export of foodstuffs to African nations and the decision to exempt WFP humanitarian aid from food export bans, and would continue to work with WFP to

provide emergency food assistance to people in vulnerable situations. Furthermore, to better prepare for future crises, it was necessary to accelerate the transformation of food systems in order to achieve greater resilience and sustainability.

48. Agroecology was an essential solution to address the triple planetary crisis and build healthier and more equitable food systems. Consequently, Thailand was pursuing a bio-circular-green economy model to achieve more balanced post-pandemic economic growth while preserving the environment. It was important to ensure that smallholder farmers had access to affordable technologies and innovations. As one of the largest food exporters, Thailand would continue to strengthen global food security and share best practices on food self-sufficiency, sustainable soil management and smart farming through South-South and triangular cooperation.

49. Although there had been no people living below the international poverty line in Thailand since 2016, transformative solutions were needed to address rising inequalities in income and wealth. To that end, Thailand had introduced a national multidimensional poverty index and had developed a database aimed at providing targeted support for vulnerable groups while empowering local communities through investment in universal health coverage, education and social protection.

50. **Ms. Juárez Argueta** (Guatemala) said that, although her country had a long history of agricultural potential, small-scale farmers were faced with a very complex environment that prevented them from developing their activities and improving their livelihoods. Climate change had contributed to hunger by destroying crops and productive infrastructure, thereby increasing poverty and migratory flows, as witnessed at present by the effects of Tropical Storm Julia. The world was on the verge of a global food crisis, but instead of taking action to halt the trend in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, even greater disruption to global supply systems was anticipated. The underlying causes of hunger were worsening, with rising inflation and food and fuel prices. Hunger was not simply a matter of statistics but had a human cost: children under 5 years of age, women in extreme poverty and people living in rural areas suffered the most from malnutrition. It was therefore essential to strengthen social protection systems, improve basic health and guarantee food availability.

51. Guatemala had undertaken several initiatives aimed at improving nutrition and health, helping family farmers with soil conservation, providing food to those at risk of losing harvests and improving irrigation and productive systems. The Government had implemented

a school feeding programme that was linked to family agriculture, which sought to promote values, cultural diversity, gender equality, teamwork and environmental conservation, thus promoting self-sufficiency and decision-making. Guatemala commended the United Nations system for implementing projects with a direct impact and urged Member States to follow up on the outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit.

52. **Ms. Alvarado** (Mexico) said that poverty and rising inequality were the underlying causes of food insecurity, hindering the enjoyment of the rights to, among other things, adequate food, livelihoods, health, water and education. For Mexico, ending hunger and malnutrition was a fundamental pillar of the country's development. Reducing and eventually eliminating poverty, especially in rural areas, was necessary to tackle social inequality, ethnic and gender discrimination, violence, civil unrest, irregular and unsafe migration, food insecurity, malnutrition and the unsustainable use of natural resources.

53. The COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the fragility and dysfunctionality of global food systems, and movement restrictions and supply chain disruptions had driven up prices, harmed livelihoods and exacerbated food insecurity, especially for the poorest. Climate change was an even greater threat to food security, with extreme meteorological conditions having greatly disrupted agricultural production and food availability. Maintaining the supply of food, especially at a time of growing economic and geopolitical tension, should be a minimum requirement for decision makers. Adequate technical and financial support was also needed, with initiatives that addressed the multidimensional needs of all countries.

54. The agrifood policy of Mexico was aimed mainly at seeking self-sufficiency and a new food and nutritional system that was fair, healthy and sustainable. Rural parts of the country were rich in natural resources and had the potential to generate income and meet the food needs of farmers. However, those regions were also the least developed and were characterized by extreme poverty. The Government had therefore adopted a new law to promote sustainable development in rural areas. Young people of working age, rural women, Indigenous Peoples, Mexicans of African origin and farmers must be prioritized in order to incentivize employment creation, address the fundamental causes of poverty and create suitable conditions for access to nutritious food.

55. **Mr. Hossain** (Bangladesh) said that the world was facing a grave food crisis, with nearly 1 billion people hungry in 2021 and hunger and malnutrition rising sharply, driven by many interconnected factors,

including extreme weather patterns that ravaged crop production, COVID-19 pandemic-related supply chain disruptions and the conflict in Ukraine. The World Bank had estimated that, in June 2022, the global agricultural price index was 34 per cent higher than in January 2021 and that maize and wheat prices were 47 per cent and 42 per cent higher, respectively. With the cost of living and food prices soaring, the prospect of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2, as well as the other Goals with which food and nutrition were intimately linked, looked increasingly bleak. Women and girls suffered disproportionately when poverty and hunger lingered, and it was estimated that 388 million of them would be living in extreme poverty in 2022, seriously undermining efforts to achieve gender equality.

56. Hunger must be seen as a global problem urgently requiring a global solution, with the United Nations at the forefront of global action to address the crisis. Bangladesh was a champion of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, advocating and facilitating a global consensus on ways to prevent, mitigate and respond to the crisis. First, it was crucial to mobilize all stakeholders in order to coordinate international and domestic financial, fiscal, industrial and agricultural policies. Second, food security must be prioritized in countries in special situations, through support for implementing the outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit in order to achieve the sustainable transformation of those countries' food systems. Third, the interconnectedness and complexity of the crisis required a combined approach focused on conflicts, climate extremes, economic downturns, growing inequalities, the debt burden and the unsustainable relationship between humanity and the planet. Transforming global food systems must be at the top of the agenda, rethinking how to produce and consume food in harmony with nature. Lastly, markets must remain open to ensure the smooth flow of trade by avoiding trade restrictions and further digitalizing procedures and supply chain operations. Regional partnerships and investments must be fostered to enhance food production and support the adoption of innovative good practices through South-South and triangular cooperation in order to address the crisis and end hunger.

57. **Mr. Romero Puentes** (Cuba) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had exposed vast structural inequalities and challenges affecting in particular the developing world, but even before the pandemic the rhythm and level of implementation had been insufficient to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, especially the goal of eradicating poverty. It could not be eradicated definitively while the world dedicated millions of dollars to military expenditure that could

instead be used for development, while protectionist and unilateral practices were upheld in economic and trade relations or while the multilateral framework continued to be undermined by unilateral coercive measures that violated the Charter of the United Nations and international law. To end poverty, its underlying causes must be eliminated. The poverty gap would be narrower if the least developed countries did not have to spend approximately 14 per cent of their income on interest payments for external debt, or if countries in the global North allocated at least 0.7 per cent of GDP to ODA. It was currently below 0.33 per cent.

58. The financial system was in the hands of a few consortiums that benefited from speculation and developing country reserves. A small minority ran the barely transparent institutions that controlled global banking and financial operations. Cuba condemned the use of the global financial system for a unilateral political agenda. For more than six decades, his country had been the victim of an illegal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America, which had become much more aggressive since 2019, with brutal mechanisms for persecution, coercion and intimidation aimed at isolating the country and depriving it of basic resources. Despite the enormous challenges, Cuba had not ceased in its endeavour to build a fairer, more democratic, more prosperous and more sustainable socialist society. The country was working to restore economic and social life, transform communities and expand social programmes. Together with international solidarity and cooperation, South-South cooperation could provide valuable support for collective efforts to eradicate poverty.

59. *Ms. Cassar (Malta) took the Chair.*

60. **Mr. Vorshilov** (Mongolia) said that the current crises had substantially increased poverty, hunger and food security, pushing millions into extreme poverty. There was a pressing need to review and update policy frameworks on the basis of pro-poor, gender-sensitive development strategies in order to end poverty in all its dimensions, ensure the significant mobilization of resources and provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, including the least developed countries.

61. Since 2019, Mongolia had implemented several programmes to support specific population groups, including a national programme on unemployment and poverty alleviation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, child allowances had been increased fivefold, food stamp allowances had been doubled and social welfare payments had been increased for the vulnerable. As the pandemic persisted, however, revealing drawbacks such

as limited fiscal capacity and falling labour force participation, the Government had shifted its approach from short-term economic relief to accelerating the recovery and building resilience.

62. Mongolia imported more than half of its food products and therefore planned to implement a price-capping mechanism to stabilize the price of basic supplies. The country was also seeking to meet domestic demand for 19 primary products and accelerate the development of animal husbandry and farming. Agriculture was a vital industry for Mongolia, generating a significant portion of its revenue and employment, and the Government had allocated 500 billion tugriks to support the agricultural production, income and livelihoods of herders. The country's vast grazing lands and steppe had been a heartland of nomadic animal husbandry for centuries, but more than 70 per cent of the land was now affected by desertification and land degradation due to climate change. Mongolia was therefore grateful for the support received for the adoption of the General Assembly resolution [76/253](#), entitled "International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, 2026".

63. *Ms. Stoeva (Bulgaria) resumed the Chair.*

64. **Ms. Al-halique** (Jordan) said that her country was facing fiscal challenges, increased budget deficits and high levels of public debt that affected its ability to allocate financial resources to key programmes, and that international assistance had been diverted to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, reversing hard-won development progress. Protecting the most vulnerable and poorer segments of society nevertheless remained central to the Government's response plan, balancing the health of citizens, residents and refugees with the need to safeguard the national economy, protect long-term livelihoods and mitigate increased poverty and unemployment. The Government had increased the minimum wage and had expanded the national health insurance scheme to include uninsured segments of society. Work was also under way to increase the number of beneficiaries of the national aid fund, and Jordan continued to harness technology for poverty alleviation by improving targeting systems for beneficiaries of social protection programmes and strengthening data verification processes.

65. Jordan had endorsed its first national food security strategy, for 2021–2030, which had four main pillars: ensuring food availability, improving access to food, enhancing food stability and strengthening food security governance. Its goals were to adopt agricultural good practices, optimize the use of limited resources such as water, ensure the use of modern technologies and the

sustainability of industries that generated employment opportunities, especially for women and young people, integrate climate-smart agriculture, benefit from renewable energy, invest in technology transfer and training and limit food waste through awareness-raising and technologies to increase the shelf life of food products. Other national efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 included direct support for food-insecure families with monthly cash and food support within the social protection system, and a sustainable agriculture plan that comprised 73 projects dedicated to improving farmers' living conditions, increasing the productivity of the agricultural sector and improving efficiency in the use of irrigated water. Further steps identified as necessary included diversifying the agricultural sector, improving value chains and strategic crops and facilitating access to finance and soft loans to develop agriculture and cover operating costs.

66. **Ms. Micael** (Eritrea) said that, even though the world enjoyed unprecedented economic opportunities and had vast resources at its disposal, millions of people were still suffering from hunger. Since the Horn of Africa was prone to drought and erratic rainfall, the Eritrean soil and water conservation strategy was aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and achieving food security, including by building dams and terracing the mountainous topography. Eritrea had been able to harvest an adequate amount of water but would still require innovative water technologies to distribute it efficiently. The tree planting project launched in 1994 continued, with the full participation of the population. Furthermore, the Government had built access roads, irrigation infrastructure and dry and cold stores and had made farm machinery available. Restoration and reclamation work had successfully been carried out in catchment areas, and spate irrigation had been expanded in lowland areas. Capacity-building and training for experts and farmers were other core functions of the Government.

67. The Government's flagship project was the minimum integrated household agricultural package, which addressed nutrition through a combined focus on cereals, horticulture and livestock. It was a small, intensive, climate-smart package aimed at providing food and nutrition at the household level, thereby improving livelihoods. To increase production, the Government was also helping smallholders and commercial farmers to introduce high-yielding varieties and adopt technological aids such as pressurized irrigation using renewable energy. It was also focusing on land tenure security, market infrastructure, access to inputs, credit and extension services and the strengthening of farmers' cooperatives.

68. Until recently, there had been no emphasis on the nutritional aspect of food security. The yardstick of success under the global system of “cereal security” had been the production of the main cereal crops such as wheat and rice, but that approach had diminished the importance of producing a variety of crops, vegetables and livestock products. Building resilient food systems to respond to natural threats such as desert locust infestations was another priority for Eritrea. To address climate change and reduce environmental degradation, the Government was promoting the production and use of biofertilizers and biopesticides. Eritrea had been working to eradicate hunger and poverty by 2030, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture would have a significant impact on meeting the country’s goals.

69. **Ms. Gantana** (Namibia) said that the slowdown in global growth caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, heightened geopolitical tensions and financial uncertainties had been compounded by food insecurity, high inflation, rising borrowing costs and skyrocketing fuel prices, making it more difficult to eradicate hunger and poverty, including in Namibia, where there had been a considerable drop in trade and tourism. Agility was a critical component of development planning. Although the pandemic had taken the world by surprise, it had also inspired efforts to support the economically vulnerable, including through programmes aimed at promoting food security and innovation in agrarian planning. Namibia had benefited in particular from the support of WFP and the United Nations Development Programme, which had developed strong institutional partnerships with the Government and helped it to generate new thinking on agriculture and nutrition. Further action was needed, however, to mitigate development challenges, including by generating momentum for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), in order to implement Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2, on poverty and hunger.

70. Food security was a priority in addressing poverty, hunger and other socioeconomic challenges. Some 70 per cent of Namibians derived their livelihoods from agriculture, and the country was extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Namibia supported finding a permanent solution to public stockholding for developing countries, for food security reasons, and reducing trade-distorting domestic measures as a result of subsidies implemented by developed countries. Multilaterally determined rules therefore had the potential to create opportunities for communities or serve as an enabler for long-lasting poverty reduction.

71. **Mr. Segura Aragón** (El Salvador) said that, in a challenging context of multiple interrelated crises, it

was essential to advance measures that promoted gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, the achievement of inclusive, sustainable economies and sustainable development. El Salvador possessed a strong legal framework to support the lifelong human rights of women, as well as an institutional architecture to promote programmes that boosted the productive capacity, autonomy and economic rights of women, and supported cooperation on addressing discrimination and gender-based violence against women. The work of the Second Committee provided an opportunity for progress on achieving peaceful, fair and inclusive societies, enabling economic growth and inclusive and sustainable productivity, eradicating poverty and ensuring well-being.

72. El Salvador was currently under threat from Tropical Storm Julia, an example of one of the most common, intense and prolonged phenomena that affected food and nutritional security, with consequences for the economy, health and education, in particular for those that depended on agriculture and livestock farming for subsistence. Supply chain disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, along with other crises, had been a global challenge with repercussions for all developing countries. Nevertheless, El Salvador had increased efforts to safeguard the human right to food throughout the life cycle, with inclusive action to improve living conditions and promote the economy. Policies had been implemented, spearheaded by the First Lady, on health and nutrition, and legislation had been adopted to support breastfeeding women and infants. As a result of her efforts to combat malnutrition, the First Lady had been appointed to the leadership of Scaling Up Nutrition. El Salvador was also implementing economic contingency measures by suspending import duties for basic products and propane gas subsidies, and approving legislation to tackle inflation and strengthen the early warning system for food and nutritional security. In addition, the country would follow up on the outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, including the initiative of the food systems coordination hub to support national dialogue on food systems in response to national priorities.

73. **Mr. Bokoum** (Burkina Faso) said that the number of people suffering from hunger had reached 828 million in 2021, an increase of approximately 46 million since the previous year and of 150 million since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such trends had also been observed in Burkina Faso, a country of more than 22 million people with a large youth population and an economy based primarily on agriculture, livestock farming and mining. The agricultural sector provided

about 40 per cent of GDP but faced numerous challenges linked to climate change and growing human pressures. Nearly half of the country's territory was affected by land degradation, desertification and sand and dust storms. Another challenge was the security situation, characterized by attacks by armed terrorist groups and an increase in conflicts between crop and livestock farmers that exacerbated food and nutritional security and reduced the already fragile means of subsistence for those who depended mainly on agriculture. As a result, more than 1.5 million people had become internally displaced, exacerbating food insecurity. The Government had therefore prioritized agricultural development in its economic and social development plan through various rural strategies on land tenure and food and nutritional security. The objectives of those strategies included intensifying agricultural production, promoting women's empowerment and gender equality, improving rural land tenure and developing entrepreneurship in the agrifood sector.

74. Global progress since 1990 had demonstrated that hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition could be eradicated, but further efforts were greatly needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2, through political will, partnerships, adequate financing and a full range of other appropriate measures. Burkina Faso would continue to work with the international community to achieve those common goals.

75. **Mr. Chala** (Ethiopia) said that the current global crises were reversing progress in reducing poverty and income inequality. Eradicating poverty in all its dimensions was currently the greatest global challenge, with approximately 1.3 billion people in 109 developing countries still living in poverty. Ethiopia had made significant strides in reducing poverty, increasing agricultural productivity and improving the health and education sectors, including through a 10-year development plan (2020–2030) to promote domestic economic reform as a pathway to sustainable development. The Government had allocated part of its budget to pro-poor sectors, helping to reduce poverty from 23.5 per cent in 2016 to 19 per cent in 2020, and had expanded its social protection programmes. In addition, it had increased school enrolment and school feeding programmes for low-income families to reduce stunting, with net enrolment rates reaching 100 per cent in primary schools and 92 per cent in secondary schools. Health-care coverage had also been improved, and economic growth and key infrastructure projects had been promoted, thereby increasing GDP by 6.03 per cent per year between 2015 and 2021. Significant progress had been achieved in providing universal access to electricity and clean cooking, and rural populations had

access to all-weather roads within 5 km. Thanks to the Government's investment in agriculture, Ethiopia was no longer a wheat importer.

76. National efforts were indispensable to eradicating poverty and implementing the 2030 Agenda, including through international cooperation and partnerships, and it was essential for countries to honour the commitments made under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement.

77. **Mr. Beleván** (Peru) said that the multidimensionality and variable nature of poverty reflected the complexity and variability of each country. To measure a country's development, it was necessary for the various dimensions of poverty within that country to be disaggregated. Per capita measurements were often an illusion or a fallacy, and Peru therefore supported calls for the adoption of alternative measurements of development. Approximately 10 per cent of the global population lived in extreme poverty on an income of less than \$1.90 per day. However, \$1.90 did not have the same purchasing power in every country, or in every part of every country, and focusing on that figure excluded the "structural poor", the approximately 3.5 billion people who lived on less than \$5.50 per day – in other words, half of humanity. Furthermore, in focusing on the amount of money required to tackle specific issues such as climate change, health and education, it was easy to forget that money was only one tool available, albeit a useful one. Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1, on ending poverty, would be out of reach if financial resources were not supported by technical cooperation and training.

78. Agriculture was particularly vulnerable to structural poverty in both developing and developed countries, affecting millions of small and medium-sized farms that were often the main providers of food both regionally and locally. For Peru, the following actions were considered vital to overcoming structural problems related to agriculture: (a) strengthening land tenure security for both farming and Indigenous communities and small and medium-sized farms; (b) increasing resources for agrarian infrastructure and irrigation technology; (c) significantly increasing technological innovation to boost productivity and profitability for crops and livestock; (d) enhancing productive and business capacity, especially for rural women and young people; (e) boosting investment in infrastructure and training so that farms could participate in new export markets and supply chains that added value to their products; (f) promoting processing methods with a positive social and environmental impact; (g) promoting modernization, transparency and user participation in

the sustainable management of water and soil resources; (h) creating conditions for the sustainable development of the extractive and forestry industries in ways that were profitable and environmentally sustainable; and (i) enhancing and expanding risk prevention and management for farmers and communities that were vulnerable to drought, flooding or frost in the context of climate change. None of those measures, however, would be possible without strengthening and expanding markets, credit sources and insurance for small and medium-sized farms. In order to improve food security, it was necessary to end poverty for small and medium-sized farmers and give them the tools and knowledge necessary to increase productivity.

79. **Mr. Li (China)** said that the prospect of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including those on poverty eradication and ending hunger, was not optimistic, and that the international community must therefore prioritize development when coordinating global policies. There was a need to increase investment in rural areas and provide more support to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in order to improve their food self-sufficiency. A fair agricultural trade order must also be created that ensured the smooth functioning of the food industrial chain, reduced fluctuations in the global food market and prevented the politicization of food security. Developed countries must honour their commitments on ODA and help developing countries to address climate change and realize green, low-carbon sustainable development.

80. Over the past four decades China had successfully lifted 800 million people out of poverty, accounting for over 70 per cent of the global poverty reduction efforts and marking the accomplishment of its national poverty reduction target by the end of 2020 and the achievement of Goal 1 some 10 years ahead of schedule. With 9 per cent of the world's arable land and 6 per cent of its fresh water, China had fed approximately 20 per cent of the global population in 2021, and its annual grain output had exceeded 650 million tons for the seventh consecutive year. The country's active participation in global poverty alleviation and its cooperation on food and agricultural issues continued to promote alignment between the Belt and Road Initiative and the 2030 Agenda, and China supported calls for the Secretary-General to appoint a special envoy on poverty reduction. China was ready to work with all partners to implement the Global Development Initiative: building on the 2030 Agenda for stronger, greener and healthier global development, by enhancing the alignment of development strategies on ending poverty and hunger.

81. **Ms. Barba Bustos (Ecuador)** said that poverty was not simply a matter of lacking financial resources

but reflected a lack of people's rights, requiring efforts to reduce inequalities and gaps in access to services and opportunities, especially for vulnerable persons and those in rural areas. To achieve those goals, it was necessary to use multidimensional poverty indicators, make disaggregated data available and ensure that financial institutions considered such measures when allocating resources and building capacity in developing countries. Ecuador therefore welcomed steps by the United Nations system to develop a multidimensional vulnerability index that could also be used in middle-income countries facing specific challenges.

82. Ecuador had committed to strengthening the agricultural and food sectors to safeguard the supply of food, but the current crisis had driven up the price of agricultural inputs, affecting productive chains. The FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its thirty-seventh session, held in Quito in 2022, had reaffirmed the need to guarantee that agrifood systems and value chains recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic through the implementation of priority programmes as part of the FAO strategic framework for the region for 2022–2031. In addition, Ecuador was working with FAO to apply the country programming framework for 2022–2026 in support of the 2030 Agenda, with the aim of improving production, nutrition and the environment. It was hoped that agrifood systems could be transformed to be sustainable, efficient, resilient and inclusive, with a low environmental impact and incorporating actions for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

83. A central feature of Ecuadorean policy was the reduction of chronic malnutrition in children and the implementation of programmes to achieve that goal under a plan to create opportunities in the period 2021–2025. Improving nutritional conditions in the developing world, with an emphasis on tackling chronic malnutrition in children, must be a priority since it was a multidimensional phenomenon that had worsened, in particular in rural and poor areas. Action was needed to improve access to safe, sufficient, affordable, nutritious and varied food, and family and small-scale farming played a role in achieving food security and well-being. Ecuador supported global efforts in the context of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025) and the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028) and would participate constructively in discussions on poverty eradication, agricultural development, food security and nutrition.

84. **Mr. Kenga (Kenya)** said that political will was required for urgent and bold action to address the interlocking challenges currently facing the world. The surge in food commodity, energy and fuel prices and the

decrease in access to agricultural inputs continued to wreak havoc, perpetually hitting the poorest and most disadvantaged groups the hardest. In the Horn of Africa, hunger might affect up to 20 million people in 2022, with millions of livestock already having died in the region, including in Kenya, which had adapted its strategies to prioritize drought and famine relief, minimize disruption to education and improve social protection and health-care systems in order to secure citizens' well-being. The Government's short- and long-term measures in that regard included subsidizing fertilizers, fuel and other critical products such as maize. Within the framework of its transformation and growth strategy for the agricultural sector for 2019–2029, the Government was supporting crop diversification and value addition and ensuring that farmers grew more food, with greater diversity, and increased their incomes.

85. Several priority responses must be emphasized. First, challenges must be addressed holistically, with the development agenda forming the basis for action, especially for developing countries. Second, financial and technological support and capacity-building were critical in enabling vulnerable countries' agrifood systems to become resilient to shocks; no developed country had achieved significant growth without modernizing its agricultural sector. Third, the agricultural sector was the bedrock of development for many developing nations and was key to creating equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth, and sustainable agrifood systems were central to eliminating extreme poverty, inequalities and malnutrition; fertilizer and other agricultural inputs must be made affordable and available, in particular to the most vulnerable, and Kenya therefore welcomed the Black Sea Grain Initiative. Fourth, real-time data and information remained critical for planning, early warning and response systems, and United Nations entities needed to provide timely, accurate, reliable and fact-based information for decision-making. Fifth, a global emergency mechanism was needed to facilitate access to debt relief, concessional finance and grants, and de-risking and lending instruments for increased investment in relevant sectors, in particular in supporting access to affordable quality fertilizers and seeds and de-risking investments in fertilizer production in Africa. Lastly, combating climate change must not cut off the development path for other countries, but must be based on the principles of fairness and a just transition.

86. **Ms. Hasanova** (Tajikistan) said that the future of the planet depended on action on food security and nutrition. Climate change and other global threats and

challenges had delayed the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the COVID-19 pandemic had placed extraordinary pressure on food systems in particular. Tajikistan faced environmental challenges, including land degradation, and was vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which had exacerbated food security and undermined the livelihoods of vulnerable communities. The Government had identified food security and access to good nutrition as one of its development priorities, and its strategic plan was aimed at addressing gaps and promoting capacity-building in order to support national efforts to achieve Goal 2, on ending hunger. The plan contained four strategic outcomes for 2024. First, food-insecure vulnerable people, including primary schoolchildren, in targeted districts should meet their basic food requirements. Second, vulnerable groups, especially infants and pregnant and lactating women and girls, in districts where the acute malnutrition protocol was being implemented should have lower levels of malnutrition. Third, targeted food-insecure communities in areas vulnerable to climate change should increase their resilience to shocks. Lastly, government institutions should increase their capacity to target, design and implement effective food security and nutrition strategies.

87. In updating global food systems, science was a key area for ensuring that changes were integrated and that better outcomes were delivered collectively. Improving all elements of food systems, with an emphasis on innovation and digitalization, must be a priority for all Member States, supported by the United Nations system.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.