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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 3 October 2023, at 10 a.m.

- Chair:* Mr. Amorín (Uruguay)
- later:* Mr. Abudu-Birresborn (Ghana)

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

General debate (*continued*)

1. **The Chair** invited the Committee to continue its general debate on the theme “Building a sustainable recovery for all”.

2. **Mr. Jiménez** (Nicaragua) said that, faced with crises such as climate change, extreme poverty, inequality and an unstable economic system that were the result of a selfish, capitalist financial model, developing countries continued their efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The effects of climate change were worsening, global warming was on course to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and weather phenomena were intensifying, with catastrophic consequences for survival, especially for the poorest. Concrete results were needed to preserve and defend the right to life on Earth, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and climate justice. In addition, a reparations policy, characterized by direct and unconditional cooperation, especially for the most vulnerable countries, must be operationalized. Compliance with the commitments of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention and the Paris Agreement under the Convention, which made up the international climate framework, was also essential.

3. Official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries must be mobilized in order to provide sufficient resources for adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage, capacity-building, technology transfer, conservation and sustainability to address climate change. Furthermore, the need for a new international economic model based on inclusion, fairness, social justice and equality between States and Governments that prioritized poverty eradication and access to health services as universal human rights, was greater than ever. South-South and triangular cooperation – essential tools for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – were a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, which must be guided by the principles of solidarity, joint participation, consensus, fairness, mutual responsibility, reciprocity, non-interference and unconditionality. It was necessary to work towards a new global order and a multipolar world characterized by fairness, solidarity and transparency in all actions and agreements, as well as to restore trust in multilateralism through inclusion and to strengthen and guarantee global peace and security.

4. Through its national plan for poverty eradication and human development for the period 2022–2026, his Government had established transformative policies, strategies and actions to promote economic growth and the defence and restoration of rights for Nicaraguan families by reducing poverty and inequality. In Nicaragua, as in other developing countries, programmes to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals had been undermined by illegal unilateral coercive measures imposed by imperialist and neocolonial countries. It was important to offer defence and support to at least 2 million people in over 30 countries who suffered the daily impacts of those measures. Nicaragua rejected and condemned such illegal measures and called for their immediate elimination.

5. **Mr. Nunes** (Timor-Leste) said that, despite multiple challenges, his country remained committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda in its social, economic and environmental dimensions with a people-centric and inclusive development strategy, and had submitted its second voluntary national review in 2023. With Sustainable Development Goal 16 serving as the overall guide to its objective of achieving sustainable, inclusive and resilient development, Timor-Leste had prioritized action on social capital, infrastructure, economic growth, governance, the rule of law and corruption. It continued to nationalize Goal indicators and enhance capacity for data collection. To that end, Timor-Leste was working with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to build a database to track progress on the Goals.

6. A sustainable recovery for all could be built by improving people’s livelihoods, promoting inclusiveness and reducing inequality. It was essential to invest in human capital, enhance productive capacity through science, technology and innovation and promote digital cooperation through South-South and triangular arrangements in order to accelerate transformation, alleviate poverty and build resilience.

7. To strengthen resilience to climate change, Timor-Leste had introduced a nature-oriented integrated approach to adaptation, mitigation and socioeconomic development that focused on enhancing the integrity, carbon sequestration potential, holistic landscape management and resilience of its environment and natural capital. Such an approach would support the diversification and growth of the non-oil economy by promoting policies to reverse biodiversity loss and restore ecosystem services, including through nature-based solutions. Having revised its nationally determined contributions, Timor-Leste prioritized climate adaptation; agriculture, food security, water,

infrastructure and health were some of the main areas for adaptation. With regard to mitigation, the country was promoting a low-carbon development path focused on renewable energy, such as small-scale solar projects for rural communities, and forestry.

8. ODA commitments must be fulfilled and climate finance provided under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including by raising targets and correcting the imbalance between funding available for mitigation and adaptation. Development partners must also provide ODA and substantial support for climate action initiatives through adequate financing and technological capacities in order for the least developed countries to adapt to climate change. In addition, the loss and damage fund must be operationalized at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and emissions reduction targets must be reinforced in order to limit global warming.

9. Other priorities included infrastructure investment and private sector development to support economic growth and diversification. Strengthening the blue economy would enhance sustainable tourism infrastructure and the sustainable use of marine resources for both job creation and revenue generation while preserving the environment. Timor-Leste was a signatory to the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, which sought to promote common governance of the ocean, tackle environmental degradation, fight climate change and prevent biodiversity loss in the high seas.

10. Lastly, the country looked forward to the adoption of the multidimensional vulnerability index. Moreover, the mobilization of domestic and international resources and the establishment of partnerships were both vital, as was compliance with the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

11. **Ms. Banakan Elel** (Cameroon) said that, at the recent Sustainable Development Goals Summit, bold commitments had been made, both individually and collectively, to step up efforts as part of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. Faced with the fact that progress on most of the targets for 2030 had been reversed and the prospect that only 15 per cent of the Goals would be reached, the current outlook was far from optimistic.

12. The world had failed to mobilize adequate resources for biodiversity protection and climate action or to create appropriate conditions for sustainable,

inclusive economic growth and shared prosperity. A vision existed, but the means of implementation were lacking. Financing was needed for development, climate action and resilience under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and had to be targeted where it would be most useful, such as investments in building infrastructure, vocational training, green energy, the circular economy, innovation, youth and women's economic empowerment and universal health.

13. It was not too late to agree to alleviate the debt burden, reform the international trade system to make it fairer, more transparent and more equitable, improve the international tax regime and combat illegal financial flows and tax evasion so that developing countries could mobilize additional local resources for sustainable development. The ongoing multifaceted crises could not be tackled with political commitment alone, but required a change of mindset.

14. **Ms. Chelbi** (Tunisia) said that the Committee should fulfil the promise of the high-level week and make progress on overcoming the obstacles to development posed by conflicts, indebtedness, widespread poverty, the North-South divide, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the climate crisis. The international financial system was clearly failing to provide a global safety net. Developing countries should not be paying eight times the borrowing costs of developed countries because ratings agencies exaggerated risks. There was an urgent need for reforms such as reallocating special drawing rights (SDRs), streamlining the return of plundered wealth, increasing liquidity to support budgets and facilitating access to affordable loans. Tunisia supported the Secretary-General's proposal for a Sustainable Development Goals stimulus.

15. Climate financing and technology transfer for mitigation and adaptation should be stepped up. The loss and damage fund should be activated in advance of the upcoming twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Developed countries should make good on their pledge to provide \$100 billion in climate financing and should allocate half of all climate financing to mitigation and adaptation.

16. Tunisia was no more immune to all those global challenges than any other country. Nevertheless, it continued to maintain its political will to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals with its Tunisia Vision 2035 development plan, which mobilized national resources for green and blue transitions, a digital transformation and inclusive social protections. At the

halfway mark of the 2030 Agenda, unprecedented and coordinated efforts would be needed from international and multilateral institutions – and above all the United Nations – to make the pledge to leave no person or place behind a reality.

17. **Ms. Bayramli-Hamidova** (Azerbaijan) said that, with only 15 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets on track and only seven years remaining to implement the Goals, it was imperative that global challenges be addressed with urgency and determination. The Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, both held recently, had therefore been important platforms to reflect on the current situation and recommit to the 2030 Agenda.

18. Azerbaijan had championed the universal promotion and implementation of the Goals through transformative initiatives, including by reshaping its economy with a focus on sustainability, inclusive growth, social justice and clean energy. As a result, its gross domestic product (GDP) had tripled over two decades and poverty rates had fallen from 49 per cent to 5 per cent. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Azerbaijan had provided at least \$300 million in humanitarian, economic and technical assistance to more than 130 nations. By prioritizing a clean environment and green growth as part of its national development strategy, Azerbaijan had also committed to reducing greenhouse gases by up to 40 per cent by 2050, increasing renewable energy capacity to 30 per cent of the total energy mix and establishing green energy zones in several regions. The country's role in global energy security had thus evolved from supplying crude oil to becoming a reliable natural gas provider, and the completion of the Southern Gas Corridor had made Azerbaijan the natural gas supplier for seven European countries.

19. As a key player in the development of transregional connectivity projects, Azerbaijan had increased transit flow by 70 per cent through investment in transportation infrastructure and wider cooperation with regional partners. Its chairship of both the Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia had been an opportunity for alignment with global sustainable development efforts. In addition, the country had recently hosted the International Astronautical Congress and the global observance of World Habitat Day, and in November 2023 would host a forum on sustainable finance and investment, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to address financing needs for the

Sustainable Development Goals through private sector investment.

20. It was regrettable that the representative of Armenia had chosen to use his statement in the general debate to spread unwarranted accusations and misinformation about Azerbaijan, which not only politicized discussions in the Committee but also diverted the international community's attention away from essential topics. Insinuations referring to a blockade or a humanitarian catastrophe were clear indicators that Armenia intended to stoke further tension and destabilization. The events on 19 and 20 September had been local counter-terrorism measures taken by Azerbaijan on its sovereign territory in response to systematic armed provocations and terrorism by the Armenian armed forces illegally deployed there, not full-scale aggression. Contrary to the allegations, those measures had lasted less than 24 hours, had targeted legitimate military objects and had adhered strictly to the principle of distinction and feasible precautions to avoid civilian casualties. Furthermore, a United Nations mission, after visiting the region, had reported that it had seen no damage to civilian hospitals, schools and housing or to cultural and religious structures and had not heard any reports of incidences of violence against civilians, thus completely invalidating all Armenian claims.

21. **Mr. Makayat-Safouesse** (Congo) said that the Committee was meeting at a particularly worrying time marked by endless crises. In response to one of those crises – climate change – his country had organized a summit of forest basins, to be held in Brazzaville in October 2023 as part of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The central aim of the summit was to establish an alliance of the three forest basins in order to promote cooperation between the ecosystems that represented 80 per cent of global biodiversity and acted as the world's carbon regulator.

22. Congo was strongly committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda, including through efforts to promote inclusive sustainable development. Since the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals, it had worked to implement them with support from UNDP. Agriculture and special economic zones were among the priority sectors identified by Congo in its national development plan. Moreover, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework enabled the implementation of the Goals at the national level, supporting efforts by the Government, donors, civil society and the private sector.

23. At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, commitment and cooperation were more important than ever, in order

to pursue a new trajectory, taking into account the comprehensive reform the international financial architecture.

24. **Mr. Gertze** (Namibia) said that, at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, it was clear that, like many other developing countries, Namibia was not on track to meet its Sustainable Development Goal targets by 2030. Progress had been jeopardized by prolonged and persistent drought, slow and stagnating economic growth, the COVID-19 pandemic and regional geopolitical conflicts that had had a significant global impact. His delegation therefore welcomed the adoption of the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit), but recognized that much still needed to be done to achieve the Goals. The contextual reality in many developing countries was that, after decades of progress, hunger and poverty had worsened. Although Namibia had established development priorities specific to its contextual challenges, government funding had proven insufficient to address those priorities.

25. Despite the scale of the challenge, Namibia had identified evidence-based policy actions aimed at putting the 2030 Agenda back on track. One exercise, led by the national planning commission with technical support from UNDP, was a push for the Goals. The scoping phase of the exercise had helped to identify the root causes of the country's critical development challenges and their links to progress on the Goals, resulting in the prioritization of Goals 1, 8 and 10, which were closely linked to the country's triple development challenges: poverty, inequality and unemployment. Investment in disaggregated data generation, analysis and dissemination needed to be increased in order to better assess progress on the Goals in developing countries. Development ambitions could be enabled and fast-tracked by restructuring and reforming the international financial architecture to unlock investment, improve international debt mechanisms and offer debt suspension options. The Committee had an integral role in promoting such reform.

26. Namibia welcomed calls for the development of a mechanism to automatically recommend the issuance of SDRs based on quantitative triggers. Middle-income countries urgently needed technical and financial support, including debt swaps, the rechanneling of unused SDRs and the allocation of new SDRs. His delegation also welcomed the inclusion of accelerated climate action and financing mechanisms in the Nairobi Declaration adopted recently at the Africa Climate Summit.

27. Development in Africa was largely self-financed, with public revenue and private savings accounting for over three quarters of total development financing. Development partners must recommit to strengthening revenue collection and the efficient use of public expenditure with modernized, progressive tax systems by tackling tax evasion and avoidance, combating money-laundering and supporting local capacity-building. A more systematic multilateral approach was needed, as well as the coordination and improvement of sovereign debt processes, with the meaningful participation of developing countries, and Namibia therefore supported calls for the Secretary-General to establish a commission of experts on the reform of the international debt architecture.

28. **Mr. Pary Rodríguez** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the Committee must work ambitiously to advance sustainable development in a balanced and coherent way, addressing the structural causes of inequality and poverty and building consensus based on people's needs and diverse contexts. The systematic erosion of the principles of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which formed the basis of the international community's collective understanding of sustainable development, as well as its selective memory regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, were matters of concern. Tackling current global challenges required the complete transformation of production and consumption methods through a just transition, taking into account the responsibilities, needs and capacities of each country and each segment of the population.

29. To address climate change and biodiversity, it was necessary to prioritize mechanisms that gave developing countries the means of implementation to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The principles of fairness and of common but differentiated responsibilities must be included in all discussions on sustainable development during the current session.

30. With regard to macroeconomic policies, the need to reform the international financial architecture had been supported by several reports, and postponing it would only condemn more people to poverty. Reforms should include governance systems to enable all countries to create an international financial system capable of meeting needs and expectations. Trade must also contribute to sustainable development, taking into account the principle of fairness, with no policies resulting in unfair additional barriers for developing countries. Furthermore, food insecurity must be tackled by building the resilience of food systems, increasing national resources to protect food security and

strengthening the sovereignty of developing countries in order to diversify the trade in goods and reduce price volatility.

31. In addition, international tax cooperation must be strengthened, with a fair, just and transparent tax system serving as one of the foundations of societal well-being. International tax norms and standards must be bolstered and information-sharing systems between countries consolidated through a binding agreement on international tax cooperation aimed at eliminating tax evasion and illegal financial flows. With a focus on financing for development, the level of ambition should be proportionate to the challenges addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals.

32. Information and communications technologies (ICTs) must be a key component of accelerating sustainable development in developing countries, as the digital divide continued to grow in terms of access and quality. It was also essential to prevent modern tools such as artificial intelligence from using discriminatory algorithms or creating new digital forms of labour exploitation.

33. In conclusion, his delegation called for the Committee, when addressing the needs of landlocked developing countries, to pursue bold, action-oriented outcomes and ensure that the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries produced transformative results.

34. **Mr. Yamanaka** (Japan) said that the Sustainable Development Goals were at risk of being left behind at their midpoint. There was a need to strengthen international solidarity, in order to advance human-centred international cooperation and accelerate efforts to achieve the Goals. The political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit embodied those principles and the Committee was an important forum for translating them into concrete action.

35. It was important to prepare for future outbreaks of infectious diseases, based on the lessons learned from the fight against COVID-19. The Group of Seven had pledged to mobilize more than \$48 billion towards achieving universal health coverage and strengthening pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. Japan remained committed to honouring that pledge and intended to contribute \$7.5 billion over the period 2022–2025. In addition to domestic financial resources, private sector financial resources should be mobilized through the promotion of impact investments. Japan would continue to work with developing countries to ensure equitable access to medical countermeasures for health emergencies, as part of its contribution to Group of 20 efforts.

36. Climate change was an urgent issue that required immediate action by the international community. Japan was determined to lead those efforts, in cooperation with other countries, to ensure the success of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other initiatives. It would continue to support disaster risk reduction in countries vulnerable to climate change and remained committed to achieving the collective goal of developing countries to mobilize \$100 billion, annually, in climate finance. Accordingly, his Government was steadily meeting its commitment to provide up to \$70 billion in public and private sector support, over the period 2021–2025. Education was critical for securing lasting peace, countering the underlying causes of violence and fostering inclusion, tolerance and conflict resolution. Japan therefore prioritized education cooperation as an essential sector for achieving human security, enabling the Goals and ensuring a better future.

37. Japan remained committed to promoting gender equality and empowering women, and was stepping up efforts to promote the women and peace and security agenda, which should be discussed not only in the context of social and economic affairs, but also in the sphere of international peace and security. With respect to financing for development, which was essential for supporting developing countries, and especially low-income countries, Japan had been taking a leading role in efforts to reallocate SDRs and reform multilateral development banks, while providing substantial support for the latter's activities. His delegation would not accept unnecessary programme budget implications, and looked forward to open and constructive discussions within the Committee, aimed at accelerating the path towards implementing the 2030 Agenda.

38. **Ms. Mogaka** (Kenya) said that economic slowdowns, debt distress, conflicts and escalating energy and fuel prices had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions, and were driving up food commodity price and reducing access to essential supplies. The theme of the Committee's general debate, "Building a sustainable recovery for all" underscored the urgent need for joint efforts to address those challenges, in order to safeguard the well-being of current and future generations.

39. In response to those challenges, Kenya was actively pursuing its Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda, which focused on five core pillars: agriculture; micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises; housing and settlements; healthcare; and the digital superhighway and creative economy. Those pillars were projected to create millions of jobs, take

millions of people out of hunger and poverty, and accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Given the pivotal role of foreign investment in economic growth, Kenya was committed to attracting, promoting and retaining domestic and foreign investments for the five pillars. It had also expanded social safety nets to cover vulnerable groups, such as children, older persons, persons with disabilities, women and young people, by ensuring access to food, decent shelter, affordable health care, safe potable water and education.

40. Access to adequate, sustainable and predictable financing for development remained a key challenge, especially in Africa. Developing countries could not make real progress while mired in financial distress and addressing the impact of climate shock and debt, which diverted resources away from development. In that respect, the global community should establish a proactive debt restructuring initiative to extend the tenure of sovereign debt and provide reasonable grace periods. International financial institutions should increase concessional loans using SDRs allocated on the basis of specific needs. Financial markets should be restructured, with a particular focus on risk assessment by credit rating agencies, to emphasize the need for responsible sovereign lending and the incorporation of mineral wealth, natural capital and ecosystem services into the calculation of GDP. The proposed Sustainable Development Goal stimulus should be actualized to help offset the challenging market conditions faced by developing countries and accelerate their progress towards achieving the Goals. A global public climate financing mechanism should be established to ensure dedicated, affordable and accessible capital for large-scale green investments. Doing so would require sustained engagement in multilateral processes, and the possible creation of a new global climate finance charter.

41. In the lead-up to the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in the wake of recent conferences and high-level summits, there was a need for urgent multi-stakeholder action to respond to global concerns. As the host nation to the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Kenya continued to support those agencies in the implementation of their mandates to promote global sustainability and inclusive socially and environmentally sound urbanization and cities.

42. **Mr. Nguyen** Hoang Nguyen (Viet Nam) said that, at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, it was unfortunate that only 15 per cent of the Sustainable Development

Goals were on track and many were regressing. Comprehensive and transformative actions were urgently needed to bring the 2030 Agenda back on track. Commitments had been made and bold actions had been promised at the recently concluded high-level week of the General Assembly and at several other high-level meetings and summits. The Committee had a duty to follow through on those commitments and promises. In that connection, it should focus on accelerating the reform of the international financial architecture, as called for by the Secretary-General and many developing countries, to ensure fairer financing for development and more diverse representation of countries in global financial and economic governance. The proposed Sustainable Development Goal stimulus initiative should be actualized, to mobilize resources for supporting the efforts of developing countries. His delegation looked forward to further updates on the development of measures beyond GDP, and stood ready to contribute to that process.

43. Poverty eradication, which was a key priority, required the strengthening of food security through agricultural development, access to decent jobs and social protection for all, and investment in education. The needs of countries in special situations, such as the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, should be taken into account in all relevant measures. There was a need to scale up climate action and climate finance. Developed countries and international financial institutions should help developing countries to foster green technologies, green finance, green management and just energy transitions. The loss and damage fund should be operationalized at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the realization of the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework needed to be accelerated.

44. Viet Nam had sponsored the General Assembly resolution calling for the proclamation of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development 2024–2033, as science, technology and innovation were critical to support international, regional and national sustainable development efforts and initiatives. All developed countries should transfer technologies and provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries, with a view to narrowing the digital and technological gaps and enabling those countries to take full advantage of the digital age.

45. Viet Nam had made every effort to ensure the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. All 17 Goals had

been integrated into national socioeconomic development plans and strategies for the period 2021–2030, and into sectoral development plans, policies and strategies. His Government continued to place people at the centre of every decision, policy and action, and had mobilized broad stakeholder participation in the achievement of the Goals, with particular emphasis on disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

46. Lastly, Viet Nam had participated in the just energy transition partnership and, with the support of partners, it would be able to achieve its climate ambition and contribute to the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

47. **Ms. Brattested** (Norway) said that the Committee should concentrate its efforts on accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations development system would play a critical role in finding a solution, and would require cooperation and flexible financing to deliver on its mandate. Resident coordinators needed independence and adequate resources, to deliver at the country level. Sustainable development was a key element of Norway's foreign policy. Its development policy was designed to promote economic development, democratization and the implementation of human rights, good governance and poverty eradication measures. It was still possible to achieve the targets of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

48. While responding to current crises, the international community should also prepare for future crises. The COVID-19 pandemic had reversed progress on the Goals, highlighting the need for stronger health systems and global cooperation on pandemic preparedness and response. A healthy planet and healthy oceans were critical to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss affected progress on all the Goals and jeopardized human security. The most vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries small island developing States and countries affected by conflict, would bear the brunt of those challenges. The collective response should be to focus on leaving no one behind and reaching those furthest behind first. All parties should work together to unlock access to renewable energies in emerging economies and, in so doing, reduce harmful emissions, facilitate job creation and combat energy poverty.

49. Food security was an integral part of the climate agenda and a defining challenge of the current era. While food production was being threatened by climate change, the agricultural sector was one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases. A profound

transformation of food was therefore required for climate goals to be met. There was an urgent need to maximize available resources for the purpose of sustainable development. International tax cooperation was an integral part of that effort. Progressive taxation and universal access to social services were vital tools for reducing inequalities. Conversely, illicit financial flows and persistent tax evasion diverted resources away from sustainable development. Success in mobilizing financing for development would depend on the extent of ambitions and the efficacy of collaboration.

50. Human rights, democracy, the rule of law and gender equality should be at the core of all efforts. The participation of women and girls in their societies and their right to make decisions about their own bodies were preconditions for democratic and sustainable development that left no one behind. Humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts should be complementary and coherent.

51. **Mr. Moretti** (Brazil) said that recent high-level meetings and summits had provided many opportunities for Member States to discuss strategies for addressing the multiple ongoing crises. On those occasions, Brazil had clearly expressed its desire to achieve sustainable development for all, with equal social, economic and environmental benefits. The fight against inequalities within and among countries was the core objective of the 2030 Agenda. There was an urgent need to reduce poverty and hunger, especially in the global South. The United Nations and the international community should be resolute in the commitment to leave no one behind and intensify efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms, including food insecurity and malnutrition, especially in the global South.

52. Brazil had been taking decisive measures to ensure the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that respect, climate change was one of the greatest challenges facing humankind. As a token of its renewed commitment to achieving sustainable development, Brazil had pledged to host the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2025 and was grateful for the endorsement and support of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to that end. It also looked forward to the twenty-eighth session, which would be held in Dubai later that year. Deforestation in the Amazon region had already slowed by close to 50 percent within recent months, and his Government was determined to reach zero deforestation by 2030. The recently held summit of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization had produced a new collaboration agenda for the protection of that precious biome.

53. Developing countries should play a more prominent role in the decision-making and governance structures of international financial institutions, which would entail reducing bureaucracy and conditionalities, increasing concessional financing, promoting national ownership and creating policy space for developing nations. Major global governance bodies, where all countries should have a voice and vote, had seen their effectiveness diminished. When institutions perpetuated inequalities, they became a part of the problem, rather than the solution. It was disheartening that the previous year, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had allocated \$160 billion in SDRs to European countries, while providing a mere \$34 billion to African nations.

54. Digital technologies could play an instrumental role in enhancing the delivery of public services and driving digital inclusion. Investments in connectivity infrastructure and efforts to improve digital literacy, education and training were also critical for ensuring the effective realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Mindful of those potential benefits, Brazil upheld a people-centred, inclusive, development-oriented, ethical approach to the development and use of digital technologies, with a view to improving people's lives and bridging the digital divide, in keeping with the consensus reached at the World Summit on the Information Society.

55. **Ms. Alomair** (Saudi Arabia) said that meeting the challenges to development posed by diseases, conflicts and disasters would require resolve, commitment and collective action. Her country's Saudi Vision 2030 plan incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals across numerous sectors.

56. The COVID-19 pandemic had demonstrated the need to support developing States with a demand-driven approach that addressed national priorities. The international financial system was in need of reform. In 2022, her country had provided some \$2.7 billion in ODA, which came to 0.74 per cent of its gross national income, exceeding the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent. The Kingdom had financed projects in 166 countries, with a focus on public-private partnerships.

57. Climate action should take into account the different circumstances of different countries and regions, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Energy security should be a priority, with greater investment in carbon capture and decarbonization technologies. Saudi Arabia supported numerous initiatives to protect the environment and natural resources. In 2024, Riyadh would be hosting the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations

Convention to Combat Desertification. Realizing the 2030 Agenda would also require narrowing the digital divide so that all could reap the benefits of the digital transformation.

58. **Mr. Geng Shuang** (China) said that global economic recovery was weak, the negative spillover effects of political conflicts continued to spread and unilateralism and protectionism were on the rise. As a result, most developing countries were faced with challenging circumstances and the Sustainable Development Goals were far from being on track. At the recently concluded Sustainable Development Goals Summit, State leaders and the Secretary-General of the United Nations had called for strengthened solidarity and cooperation, urgent measures for finding transformative solutions and enhanced efforts to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

59. The international community should remain committed to win-win cooperation and promote fair development for all countries, so that no country or individual was left behind. People-centred development should be the main focus of the United Nations, whose coordinating role required more support. Inclusiveness should be guaranteed in the building of an open world economy, where true multilateralism was practised and the multilateral trading system was firmly upheld, through the World Trade Organization, and trade and investment liberalization and facilitation were promoted. There was a need to resolutely oppose unilateralism, protectionism, the disruption of supply chains and the establishment of trade barriers. At the same time, economic integration and the interconnected development of all countries should be encouraged, through connectivity, and a sound environment for the advancement of developing countries should be fostered. The international community should continue to advocate for fairness and justice, while improving global economic governance. The international financial architecture should be reformed, and the representation and voice of developing countries in global economic governance should be enhanced. Macroeconomic policy coordination should be strengthened. Developed countries should adopt responsible fiscal and monetary policies, and fulfil their ODA commitments, in order to provide greater support to developing countries for reducing the North-South gap and the global development deficit.

60. There was a need to renew commitment to green and low-carbon growth, and explore innovative paths towards sustainable development. It had become necessary to accelerate the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, and to uphold important principles, such as the principle of common

but differentiated responsibilities. Developed countries should take the lead in significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fulfil their commitment to provide \$100 billion in annual climate finance. The time had come to fully exploit new technologies and forms of business, such as digital technology, fifth generation (5G) mobile networks and artificial intelligence. In doing so, countries would be able to implement innovation-driven development strategies and contribute to global ecological conservation.

61. China had integrated the 2030 Agenda into its national development strategy and was promoting world peace, stability, progress and prosperity through its own development. It remained committed to working with the countries of the global South to realize common development. China had put forward the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative: building on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for stronger, green and healthier global development. As the world's second largest economy, China had contributed significantly to global economic growth over the years. The large size, solid foundation, strong resilience and bright development prospects of the Chinese economy would certainly bolster global economic recovery and sustainable development. The third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation would be held in Beijing in the coming weeks and all parties were welcome to participate in discussions on global development and shared opportunities, in order to give fresh impetus to the 2030 Agenda.

62. **Mr. Cho Hyun Woo** (Republic of Korea) said that world leaders had adopted a political declaration at the recently held Sustainable Development Goals Summit, in which they had reaffirmed their shared commitments, identified current challenges and presented a way forward. With only seven years remaining to achieve the Goals, urgent action was needed to rescue them, and the Committee could serve as an important catalyst to that end. The 2030 Agenda was at the heart of the national agenda of the Republic of Korea, which had been actively supporting global efforts to narrow the divides among countries. As a result of unprecedented multifaceted global crises, those divides were widening in several areas. To overcome them, the international community would have to bridge the development gap, address the climate crisis and fully exploit digital technologies.

63. In that context, the Republic of Korea had increased its 2023 ODA budget by 21.3 per cent and was aiming for an even greater increase in 2024, despite fiscal and financial constraints. It would also seek avenues where its ODA could work as a catalyst for

investment and partnerships with the private sector in partner countries. In addition, the Republic of Korea intended to further strengthen its ODA investment in education and training, in order to yield greater returns by enabling future generations to unleash their full potential. The climate crisis was exacerbating the economic divide between nations and obstructing the path towards sustainable development. The Republic of Korea would continue to increase its green ODA, with a view to helping climate-vulnerable countries to reduce their carbon emissions and increase their resilience to climate shocks. To that end, it had pledged to contribute \$300 million to the second replenishment of the Green Climate Fund, in addition to its contribution of \$300 million at the inception of the Fund. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea intended to launch a carbon-free alliance to share its experience and solutions with respect to clean, carbon-free energy sources such as nuclear, hydrogen and renewable energies.

64. The Republic of Korea was ready to play a leading role in bridging the digital divide, using its know-how in ICTs as a key enabler for achieving the Goals. His Government would play its part in establishing global digital norms and strive for digital innovation, in collaboration with the international community, for the benefit of humanity. There was a need for fair access to and safe usage of artificial intelligence and digital technologies, and the Republic of Korea supported the establishment of an international organization, under the umbrella of the United Nations, to discuss and regulate digital ethics. In that regard, his Government had recently announced the creation of a digital bill of rights, a blueprint for a digital society of mutual prosperity that would reflect globally shared values. In 2024, the Republic of Korea would host a global forum on artificial intelligence, in collaboration with the United Nations High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, to support the establishment of a global normative order in the digital age.

65. **Ms. Nipomici** (Republic of Moldova) said that her delegation welcomed the theme of the Committee's deliberations, as the world was grappling with the consequences of multiple, interlinked crises. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and in the midst of the unprovoked Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova was faced with significant economic disruptions, an energy crisis and various hybrid threats, which were causing major challenges for the most vulnerable groups. However, those crises had mobilized her Government to find solutions and build resilience to future crises, with the support of development partners. The Republic of Moldova deplored the halt of the Initiative on the Safe

Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports. The weaponization of food was further disrupting grain exports and worsening the global food crisis. As part of the European Commission's "Solidarity Lanes" initiative, the Republic of Moldova was helping to ensure that Ukrainian grains reached their rightful destinations.

66. Her Government was committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and was making every effort to eradicate all forms of poverty, combat inequalities and address climate change, so that no one would be left behind: it had built resilient systems and structures to better prepare for future emergencies, in particular by taking measures aimed at attaining energy independence and transitioning to renewable energies; it had exceeded the initial target of Sustainable Development Goal 7, to ensure that renewable energy accounted for at least 15 per cent of total energy supplies; and it had launched a major local infrastructure programme entitled "European Village", which would sustain economic growth and improve water, sanitation, education and social services across the country. Furthermore, her Government had implemented the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, and was amending labour legislation to help close the gender gap. Access to ICTs had been enhanced, with a high penetration rate of broadband Internet services and mobile networks, and widespread digitalization of public services. The Republic of Moldova also intended to accelerate systematic domestic reforms in the justice sector.

67. The second meeting of the European Political Community, which had been held in Moldova in June 2023, was a perfect example of how solidarity among countries could foster political dialogue and cooperation, to address issues of common interest and promote security, stability and prosperity. That same month, her Government had adopted a national action plan entitled "Building European Moldova", which was closely aligned with the Goals.

68. The Republic of Moldova was also responding to the call for accelerated actions on climate change. It had committed to the urgent mitigation of climate impact through concrete actions included in recently approved government policies aimed at extending and rehabilitating national forests; lowering emissions and monitoring the achievement of the updated nationally determined contribution; decarbonizing the transport sector, in collaboration with the German Government; reducing methane emissions; and conducting climate change adaptation actions in all vulnerable sectors. All sectoral policies prioritized climate protection through

the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in order to ensure the sustainable development of the country.

69. Lastly, the Republic of Moldova was working with development partners to update its nationally determined contribution for the period 2025–2035; develop and enact a climate action law, which would seek to achieve climate neutrality by 2050; and prepare and submit its first biennial transparency report by the end of 2024.

70. **Mr. Sekeris** (Greece) said that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals should be redoubled. In addition to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the climate crisis had also demonstrated the urgency of resuming a sustainable development trajectory by adopting strategies that addressed the multiple interlinkages among the Goals. She therefore welcomed the renewed commitment to accelerating their achievement at the recently held Sustainable Development Goals Summit.

71. Digitalization had progressed to varying extents in developed and developing countries, bringing about improvements in the areas of telecommunications, human development and service provision. African countries needed to adopt policies that nurtured a pool of well-trained workers and advanced economic and structural reforms, in order to attract foreign direct investment and bolster the spread of new technologies. More investments should be made in human well-being, especially in the health-care, education and social sectors, to foster inclusion and social justice, expand universal social protection, create decent jobs and enhance green and digital skills.

72. Climate change was now affecting Southern Europe, and the Mediterranean region in particular. Like many of its neighbours, Greece faced challenges such as floods, fires, heatwaves and landslides, which brought unprecedented destruction across the region. His Government had invested heavily in mitigation, introduced a pioneering climate law and was driving ambitious decarbonization proposals. It was also working with multinational companies to pursue new green technologies. Furthermore, Greece intended to call for the creation of a global adaptation alliance at the upcoming twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Given that the green transition could foster economic growth, job creation and sustainable development in local communities, Greece had launched an initiative to transform the Greek islands into models of energy autonomy, a circular water and waste economy and ecological mobility. In 2024, Greece would host the ninth "Our Ocean" Conference,

with the aim of enhancing cooperation on all major issues relating to oceans and seas, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, overfishing and marine pollution. The Conference could serve to mobilize additional international support for the least developed countries.

73. Financing for sustainable development should be a collective endeavour. While there was widespread consensus on the need to bridge the financing gap, progress had fallen short of ambitions. The Sustainable Development Goal stimulus plan called for a significant increase in financing for sustainable development, through a combination of concessional and non-concessional finance. The Secretary-General's report entitled "Our Common Agenda" (A/75/982) highlighted the need to reinvigorate the United Nations, to enable the Organization to respond more effectively to the growing number of interconnected global challenges. Addressing those challenges would require enhanced capacities on the part of multilateral institutions and a renewed commitment to cooperate across the public, civic and private sectors.

74. *Mr. Abudu-Birresborn (Ghana), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

75. **Mr. Moriko** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that it was crucial to strengthen multilateralism, in a spirit of trust and solidarity, for the greater prosperity and well-being of all and the safeguarding of the planet. To that end, pragmatic solutions should be proposed to facilitate post-COVID-19 recovery and prevent future shocks. It was also imperative to put people at the heart of all actions, in order to protect the planet and effectively combat poverty in all its forms.

76. To ensure a strong and sustainable recovery for all, it was essential to properly manage inflationary pressures while tackling debt-related challenges; integrate climate adaptation measures into economic recovery programmes; adopt a green, resilient and inclusive development approach; help countries to build resilience to disasters through investment in infrastructure, emergency responses, disaster risk financing and safety nets; reform the international financial architecture; and reallocate the unused \$100 billion in SDRs to developing countries. Multi-stakeholder partnerships were critical for mobilizing support for the Sustainable Development Goals.

77. The upcoming twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would mark the end of the first global assessment of progress towards achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement,

and would provide a further opportunity to take concrete steps to combat climate change more effectively. In that respect, Côte d'Ivoire commended initiatives aimed at assisting developing countries in their efforts to finance climate adaptation and mitigation. As a signatory to the Paris Agreement, Côte d'Ivoire had established a policy and regulatory framework for promoting renewable energies. It was seeking to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 28 per cent and increase the share of renewable energies in its energy mix by 42 per cent, by 2030. His Government remained committed to combating deforestation and coastal erosion, strategically utilizing agricultural land and sustainably managing waste. In 2022, Côte d'Ivoire had co-organized the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. That event had culminated in the adoption of the Abidjan Call and the Abidjan Legacy Programme, which sought to restore degraded land and combat deforestation, while promoting long-term environmental sustainability.

78. In keeping with its commitment to achieve the Goals, his Government had formulated and implemented a social programme aimed at accelerating the implementation of major projects under the National Development Plan for the period 2021–2025. Accordingly, several initiatives had been launched to promote sustainable development in Côte d'Ivoire, including programmes to strengthen institutional and legal frameworks, build national environmental management capacities and improve environmental monitoring and assessment. The recently concluded Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development had enabled States to renew their commitments to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. The time had come to translate those commitments into concrete actions, to ensure a sustainable recovery for all.

79. **Mr. Pieris** (Sri Lanka) said that building back better, with a broad-based recovery that left no one behind, had become more urgent. Effective financing for development was crucial in that regard, along with a comprehensive plan to address the financial difficulties of middle-income countries, a number of which were facing near-collapse. Defining a new course did not mean trading prosperity for abstract principles, or asking the current generation to pay for previous sins. Existing inequality and market failures meant that capacity, talent and potential resources were wasted, while other resources were consumed in excess.

Sustainability, rooted in new technologies and practices, must drive a new industrial revolution.

80. Sri Lanka had been moderately successful in recovering from its default in 2022, but the most vulnerable segments of its society, as well as the middle-income sector, were bearing the brunt of the crisis. The Government's economic reform efforts, including a road map for sustainable economic growth, were currently under evaluation by IMF, and negotiations to secure the second tranche of IMF funding were progressing positively. The local debt optimization programme was nearing completion and discussions on foreign loans were already under way with all of the country's creditors. Nevertheless, the fact that many developing countries were burdened with substantial debt highlighted the inadequacy of existing mechanisms. He called for a reconsideration of debt forgiveness or write-offs for low-income countries, which could be a viable alternative to the loss and damage fund.

81. The country's approach to economic restructuring included a strategy for green growth, based on renewable energy generation. The President of Sri Lanka, at the Climate Ambition Summit, had also declared his support for the establishment of a climate justice forum aimed at fostering international collaboration to address climate-related challenges. A renewed commitment to a rules-based order, the elimination of unilateral coercive measures, and an increase in the provision and mobilization of climate finance for adaptation and resilience were needed. Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity should form the basis for a comprehensive policy package that could harness the combined efforts of both the public and private sectors. Action should be coordinated globally, making finance and technology available and accessible to developing countries through international cooperation.

82. **Mr. Kallis Baldrich** (Andorra) said that, as a landlocked, high-mountain country, Andorra was especially vulnerable to climate change. Its sustainable development policies were aimed at approaching economic growth, social cohesion and environmental protection as a single challenge, with the energy transition as one of the country's main pillars of work. Managing energy resources and decarbonizing the energy sector would be a central concern in the years to come and would include promoting renewable energy and energy-efficiency, especially in buildings, and finding a balance between managing tourism and sustainable development.

83. Andorra worked with France and Spain as members of the Working Community of the Pyrenees.

The Community's Pyrenean Climate Change Observatory provided information and recommendations on sustainable policies in the region, and prepared studies on the impacts of climate change on the Pyrenean massif.

84. The "green schools" initiative of Andorra, in which 100 per cent of public schools participated, allowed for an exchange of views and information on actions related to the environment. The country's agency for research and innovation, created in 2021, sought to generate and promote knowledge, provide innovative solutions for sustainable development and contribute to diversification of the economy by promoting knowledge exchange and creating social and economic opportunities.

85. The country's national strategy on the circular economy had the following main objectives: increasing recycling by 65 per cent and reducing urban waste by 15 per cent by 2035; reducing per capita consumption of water to below 150 litres per person per day; cutting food waste by 50 per cent; and increasing the number of businesses working in the circular economy by 25 per cent.

86. **Mr. Sakowicz** (Poland) said that, since the 1990s, Poland had introduced some of the most far-reaching and radical economic reform programmes undertaken in any country, while at the same time guaranteeing a just economic transition. It had devised policies to promote entrepreneurship, help those in vulnerable situations, facilitate regional integration, transform the energy sector, digitalize the economy and attract foreign investment. While global solidarity was important, each country had the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development.

87. Sustainable, appropriate and efficient financing for development was necessary to accelerate the realization of Sustainable Development Goals. While Poland continued to provide its share through ODA, which had reached a record \$3.5 billion (0.53 per cent of gross national income) in 2022, it also believed that all possible sources of financing needed to be mobilized for global development.

88. Greater emphasis should be placed on attracting private capital. An improved business and regulatory environment and good governance were crucial. Efforts to mobilize domestic resources, especially through tax revenues, must continue, and should be accompanied by better enforcement of tax rules. Wider use of digital technologies and skills, including artificial intelligence, as well as "green" competencies, would help to address key challenges. To mitigate potential threats stemming from such technologies, it was important to ensure that

human rights were protected online and offline. Digital education, for young and old, could bridge digital divides, including geographical and gender digital divides, and allow for navigating the digital space more safely.

89. Governments alone could not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; efforts in that regard should be undertaken in cooperation with local and regional authorities. Since 50 per cent of the world's population lived in cities, addressing both chronic and emerging urban challenges would significantly contribute to overall success in achieving the Goals.

90. Lastly, he emphasized the importance of collective action to address the food security crisis, as global hunger was still far above pre-pandemic levels. Anticipatory action and investments could help to tackle the root causes of food insecurity, and the international community should focus on building resilience of local food systems.

91. **Ms. Tesfamariam** (Eritrea) said that the whole international system had become unable to meet the aspirations of peoples and was making crises fester, while transforming the weakest into a docile tool in the hands of the powerful few. Eritrea, a former colony of Italy, had first learned that lesson when it had not been granted the same legitimate right to self-determination as other Italian colonies in the aftermath of the Second World War. Instead, Eritrea had been forced into a federation with Ethiopia, against the wishes of the Eritrean people. Adding insult to injury, no action had been taken when the federation arrangement was abrogated and Eritrea was annexed, forcing the people of Eritrea to wage a bitter 30-year armed struggle for independence. Such aggression and hostility targeting the Eritrean people had continued long after independence. At present, Eritrea and many other countries were facing the imposition of unilateral coercive measures that hindered their efforts to build sustainable recovery, growth and development.

92. Against all odds, Eritrea had succeeded in recent years in revitalizing infrastructure and improving public services, including education and health care for all. Nevertheless, the divided international community and the impotent and unfit-for-purpose international institutions that had become tools of certain Powers would not allow Eritrea to deliver on its pledge to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Its concerns had been ignored during discussions and consultations on the political declaration subsequently adopted at the recent Sustainable Development Goals Summit, as well as throughout processes and consultations related to health, climate, financing for

development and other issues. Collective action and the pursuit of the common good could not come to fruition in a world of inequality in which the law of the jungle prevailed. Unless the international community realized the urgent need for reform of United Nations institutions, especially the Security Council and international financial institutions, attempts to achieve sustainable recovery for all and build a safe, stable world in which peace, stability, development and prosperity prevailed would remain a pipe dream.

93. **Mr. Tan** (Singapore) said that as the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts and economic fragmentation, among other challenges, had set the world further back in implementing the 2030 Agenda, it was essential to reinvigorate efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. A rules-based multilateral system remained the best bet for sustainable growth and development. The world must reform its multilateral institutions, including the United Nations, to keep them open and inclusive, reflect current political and economic realities and respond effectively to new and emerging challenges. An enabling environment needed to be created for the world to leverage digitalization and technology effectively. Strengthened partnerships and global frameworks to close the digital divide, along with the promotion of innovation to identify smart technological solutions, were also required. International cooperation in the digital domain, including through knowledge exchange platforms, was critical.

94. Effective mobilization of financing was paramount in addressing development gaps and channelling resources to the world's most pressing issues. The financing gap related to achieving the Goals was between \$4 trillion and \$7 trillion annually. The world was not short on financial resources, however, especially when global capital markets were worth \$240 trillion. What was needed was a fundamental shift in the approach. International financial institutions needed to be repurposed to mobilize resources more effectively and, most importantly, there needed to be investment in global public goods and the world's collective future.

95. **Mr. Bastaki** (United Arab Emirates) said that the past 50 years had convinced his country of the importance of international partnerships in meeting global challenges. The United Arab Emirates looked forward to hosting the upcoming twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change from 30 November to 12 December 2023. It was imperative to reach the target of cutting emissions by 43 per cent by 2030, and to get mitigation and adaptation financing

back on track, including through the loss and damage fund.

96. The United Arab Emirates had declared 2023 as its Year of Sustainability. It was a global leader in the transition to renewable energy, with numerous ongoing projects. The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world, was on track to reach a capacity of 5,000 megawatts by 2030. The Habshan carbon capture project would be the largest of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa region.

97. International financial institutions and multilateral banks needed to provide additional preferential financing for developing countries. The upcoming session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would be exploring new mechanisms to increase capital flows from the private sector to climate-change-affected States.

98. **Ms. Zacarias** (Portugal) said that negotiations in good faith were needed to tackle the world's multiple crises. Portugal sought to contribute to that goal by co-facilitating negotiations on the draft resolutions on disaster risk reduction and South-South cooperation. It would also negotiate, on behalf of the European Union, draft resolutions on financing for development, small island developing States and strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management. In addition, Portugal and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development were organizing the upcoming seventh International Meeting on Triangular Cooperation in Lisbon.

99. Portugal would also engage in the relevant debates on climate and biodiversity. In order to sustain the political momentum after the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028 and the second United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, it would organize a second Sustainable Blue Economy Investment Forum in Cascais in October 2023.

100. The success of the 2030 Agenda would be determined in the most vulnerable countries and through support for the world's most vulnerable populations. It was important for the world to commit to the preparation of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, in

2024, while following up on the outcomes of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Portugal would spare no effort to ensure the convening of a successful world social summit in 2025. A global debate would lay the foundations for a new social contract, based on the idea that protection in the fields of health, housing, education and work must be guaranteed to all.

101. **Mr. Beleffi** (San Marino) said that, despite years of sustainable development gains, multiple crises were now threatening to derail progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Commitments to implement existing agreements therefore needed to be strengthened. Global governance must also become more inclusive and accountable by providing more space for the participation of civil society and the private sector. Furthermore, sustainable finance needed to be ensured by catalysing a new generation of public and private investments in global goods, and by strengthening the global financial safety net so that Member States could access international funding during times of crisis.

102. The link between the climate emergency and security issues was self-evident, and needed to be addressed within the Security Council. Climate change was causing suffering among the most vulnerable communities, especially in small island developing States, least developed countries and countries affected by conflict. Rising sea levels, poor levels of precipitation and record temperatures exacerbated the risk of instability by reducing harvests, displacing communities and destroying infrastructure. Climate policies and green transitions offered an opportunity to reduce the devastating effects of climate change. It was imperative to address those challenges through ambitious mitigation, adaptation and implementation of the loss and damage agenda, along with an adequate climate finance agenda. Failure in that regard would have devastating effects for the planet as well as development and human rights.

103. San Marino was alarmed by the unprecedented food and nutrition crisis, which was affecting hundreds of millions of people around the world. It was vital to accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems, promote healthy nutrition, diets and consumption practices, and accelerate efforts to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition. The fight against food loss and waste would promote food security. San Marino welcomed all the initiatives aimed at developing awareness of responsible behaviours in that regard.

104. **Ms. Hamdouni** (Morocco) said that her delegation wished to convey its appreciation and thanks to

colleagues in Permanent Missions and the United Nations system for their expressions of solidarity and condolence following the recent earthquake in Morocco. King Mohamed VI had launched an integrated and ambitious multisectoral reconstruction programme to respond rapidly to the earthquake's devastating effects, with an estimated budget of \$12 billion over a period of five years. The programme would be financed through credit allocated from the State's general budget, contributions from local authorities and a special solidarity fund, and donations and international cooperation. The reconstruction operation would be carried out in harmony with the legacy of the affected region and its unique architectural characteristics, while respecting the dignity of the population and its customs and patterns of life.

105. The midterm review of the 2030 Agenda had offered several lessons. Amid the impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, it was clear that implementing the Sustainable Development Goals required a paradigm shift in international cooperation, as well as reform of the international financial architecture. Business as usual was no longer an option. Morocco had therefore launched structural projects in line with its new development model, which touched on vital areas of sustainable development. Major progress had been achieved in ensuring health and food sovereignty, strengthening infrastructure, empowering women and girls, and adopting a dedicated strategy for water and hydroelectric security. Morocco continued to gradually implement the royal project for social protection, advancing decent job opportunities and empowering small businesses. A new 2022–2026 road map would create an educational renaissance. Her country also planned to increase its investment in renewable energy and had revised its mitigation targets upwards.

106. During the current session, Morocco would co-facilitate negotiations on the draft resolution on South-South cooperation and facilitate those on the draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries. In addition, its resolution on integrated coastal zone management would offer an opportunity for the General Assembly to discuss how to reinforce the management and planning of coastal zones from a sustainable development perspective, and how the coastal economy could contribute significantly and in a sustainable way to a resilient post-COVID recovery.

107. **Ms. Gahlot** (India) said that, with collective political will, able leadership and the fulfilment by all nations of their common but differentiated responsibilities, leaving no one behind was a realistic goal. A significant step in that regard had been taken

with the welcoming of the African Union as a permanent member of the Group of 20, over which India was presiding in 2023. The membership of the African Union would amplify the voice of the global South in that influential group, which led numerous initiatives related to sustainable development, international financial system reform and the addressing of debt vulnerabilities. There could be no sustainable recovery for all unless those core issues were suitably addressed in a transparent manner that did not create dependencies and that led to sustained and overall growth and development in the global South, which constituted 83 per cent of the world's population.

108. With regard to achieving sustainable recovery, India had endeavoured, in particular over the past three years of economic and geopolitical turmoil, to assist its friends and partners, especially those in the developing world, through initiatives such as the Vaccine Maitri ("Vaccine friendship") initiative to supply COVID-19 vaccines and by offering to share its experience and expertise in digital public infrastructure and undertaking development cooperation projects in Africa, Latin America and the Indo-Pacific.

109. According to the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, India had lifted 415 million people out of poverty over the past 15 years. The country was currently focusing on ambitious socioeconomic initiatives related to financial inclusion, food and nutrition, health, water supply, energy and housing, and stood ready to share its experience in those areas with friends and partners.

110. India had also seen rapid progress on its Paris Agreement commitments, having achieved several targets well ahead of time. The country had even updated its nationally determined contributions after the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, at which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the five elements of the country's climate action, including the net zero target of 2070. India welcomed similar efforts being made in the global South, and looked to the developed world to meet its commitments on climate and Sustainable Development Goal finance, transfer of technology and capacity-building.

111. Another positive step had come at the New Delhi Leaders' Summit of the Group of 20 in the form of the commitment from developed countries to increase low-cost financing, along with the reiteration of their 2010 commitment to \$100 billion in finance per year, which was expected to be met for the first time in 2023. That financing would subsequently be scaled up. India

stood ready to support the upcoming Brazilian presidency of the Group of 20 to take those commitments to their logical conclusion.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.