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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 13th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 9 October 2023, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Amorín ..... (Uruguay)  
*later:* Ms. Hsieh (Vice-Chair) ..... (Thailand)

## Contents

Agenda item 18: Sustainable development (*continued*)

- (a) Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21 (*continued*)
- (b) Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)
- (c) Disaster risk reduction (*continued*)
- (d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*)
- (e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)
- (f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*)
- (g) Education for sustainable development (*continued*)
- (h) Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (*continued*)
- (i) Combating sand and dust storms (*continued*)
- (j) Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

**Agenda item 18: Sustainable development**

(continued) (A/78/80-E/2023/64, A/78/210, A/78/228, A/78/276, A/78/280, A/78/312, A/78/362, A/78/372 and A/78/393)

- (a) **Towards the achievement of sustainable development: implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, building on Agenda 21** (continued) (A/78/208)
- (b) **Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States** (continued) (A/78/222)
- (c) **Disaster risk reduction** (continued) (A/78/267)
- (d) **Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind** (continued) (A/78/209)
- (e) **Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa** (continued) (A/78/209)
- (f) **Convention on Biological Diversity** (continued) (A/78/209)
- (g) **Education for sustainable development** (continued) (A/78/219)
- (h) **Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all** (continued) (A/78/201)
- (i) **Combating sand and dust storms** (continued) (A/78/237)
- (j) **Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development** (continued) (A/78/293)

1. **Ms. González López** (El Salvador) said that middle-income countries, with their specific characteristics and vulnerabilities, required better access to concessional financing. Annual losses in El Salvador related to disasters had been equivalent to about 60 per cent of public investment spending since 2001, partly because of the country's location in the Central American Dry Corridor, an area vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, El Niño phenomena and

natural disasters, which had affected people's lives, health and livelihoods. In the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, Member States had reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the Sendai Framework, but the pace of implementation had been unequal and insufficient. El Salvador had strengthened governance and coordination with a resettlement programme and a financial management strategy for disaster risk, among other initiatives, but efforts needed to be stepped up not only to manage disasters but also to prevent risks through improved means of implementation, data collection, the exchange of best practices, innovative financing instruments, early warning systems, technology transfer and capacity-building.

2. New, additional, predictable and adequate resources were crucial. The loss and damage fund, for example, would have a clear goal of addressing the disproportionate effects of economic and non-economic losses on developing countries that were especially vulnerable to climate change. Developed nations must meet their climate financing commitment of \$100 billion per year, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. El Salvador had recently launched a climate financing initiative to identify and mobilize resources, and had established environmental incentives and deterrents as part of its national commitment on sustainable consumption and production aimed at promoting economic and productive development while managing natural resources sustainably. As reflected in its nationally determined contributions, the country was transitioning to renewable energy, with solar, wind, geothermal and hydroelectric power representing 83 per cent of its energy mix. Lastly, tourism needed to become more sustainable and resilient, and her delegation would facilitate the draft resolution aimed at achieving that in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

3. **Ms. Thompson Ramirez** (Panama) said that, in order to pursue the difficult task of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the face of multiple crises such as mass migration and climate change, her country had adopted key instruments to maintain its status as one of seven carbon-negative countries, achieve decarbonization and boost resilience in all economic sectors. The basis for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 7, was the Government's energy transition agenda. Eighty per cent of the country's electricity came from renewable sources, a share that was expected to rise to 90 per cent under plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 24 per cent by 2050. Access to energy was

especially challenging for Indigenous communities, and the Government was striving to close the gap by 2030. In 2023, the General Assembly had adopted a resolution co-sponsored by Panama and the United Arab Emirates to establish the International Day of Clean Energy in order to promote a just, inclusive, fair and safe energy transition.

4. In 2023, her country had become the first in Latin America to accede to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and had signed 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. Panama was part of a region rich in biodiversity and highly vulnerable to climate change and, if elected to the Security Council for the 2025–2026 term, would seek to address the specific risks to peace and security posed by the climate crisis.

5. Multilateralism had historically been the cornerstone of her country's foreign policy and was the only way to address challenges that transcended borders to create a fairer world. Greater access to financing was therefore needed to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, recognizing the diversity within and between middle-income and high-income countries and those in transition. Panama looked forward to the establishment of a loss and damage mechanism and other commitments on mitigation, adaptation and climate resilience at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Before the Conference, it would host a regional gathering to discuss and coordinate positions and strategies in order to identify common goals and have a stronger impact on negotiations.

6. **Mr. Jiménez** (Nicaragua) said that achieving sustainable development in the context of current global challenges required a multilateral focus, a new world order and a multipolar world in which actions and agreements were based on fairness, solidarity and transparency. Concrete outcomes were needed to preserve and defend the right to life on Earth, rooted in the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and based on fairness, climate justice and a reparations policy. Direct, unconditional cooperation was also necessary, especially on climate change. Meeting obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention and the Paris Agreement under the Convention – the only international climate framework that existed – was essential for adaptation and mitigation efforts and for limiting the rise in global

temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

7. Financing was crucial to achieving development commitments. International financial institutions should increase access to fair and inclusive financing, and developed countries should fulfil unmet obligations on official development assistance (ODA). South-South and triangular cooperation were not substitutes for North-South cooperation. The Global Development Initiative: building on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for stronger, greener and healthier global development, launched by China, had made significant progress in promoting cooperation on poverty eradication, food security, the prevention of pandemics, financing for development, climate change and green development, industrialization, the digital economy and interconnectivity in the digital age.

8. However, policies associated with the right to development continued to reduce the capacity to address global challenges and capitalist crises, owing to the illegal and terrorist unilateral coercive measures imposed by imperialist and neocolonialist countries on more than 30 countries, which affected more than 2 billion people. Nicaragua condemned such measures and called for their immediate elimination so that sustainable development could be achieved.

9. **Mr. Al Nahhas** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that even in the midst of exceptional circumstances, his country had presented its first voluntary national review to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2020 and looked forward to presenting its second review in the coming year. The Syria 2030 sustainable development strategy, drafted in cooperation with United Nations agencies and programmes, had established national ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Genuine achievement of those Goals required rejection of political agendas, double standards and interference in the internal affairs of States. The unilateral coercive measures being imposed on his country were not merely a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the guiding principles for humanitarian work. They constituted a form of political terrorism. Among other things, they had exacerbated the damage suffered by the Syrian Arab Republic from the earthquake that had struck it in February 2023 by preventing it from importing early warning systems and the heavy equipment needed to pull people from the rubble. He demanded an immediate end to all such illegal measures to ensure that no countries were left behind.

11. *Ms. Hsieh (Thailand), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

12. **Ms. Jalili** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the United Nations must prioritize poverty eradication as a prerequisite for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with each country's policies based on its own requirements and reality. The right to development must be recognized as an inalienable right so that developing countries had adequate, predictable and sustainable means of implementation, including access to finance, technology transfer and capacity-building.

13. Unlawful unilateral coercive measures and illegal unilateral sanctions must be removed immediately. In spite of such measures, her country had been able to launch initiatives on agricultural development and reducing food waste, although climate change and water scarcity continued to threaten agricultural sustainability. As a country prone to natural disasters, the Islamic Republic of Iran had improved early warning systems, infrastructure, community engagement, the empowerment of women and girls and disaster response mechanisms and had integrated disaster risk reduction into national development plans. By ensuring universal access to basic health care, most importantly during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the country had helped to combat infectious illnesses and decrease maternal and infant death rates, even though unilateral sanctions had hindered access to advanced health care and specialized medicine for children. Illiteracy had been ended and free public education provided to secondary level.

14. For over 40 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran had hosted millions of refugees and displaced persons without international support while simultaneously being subjected to harsh sanctions, by providing facilities for education, nutrition and health without discrimination. However, developed countries and the United Nations, especially the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, must also fulfil their responsibilities.

15. Given its geographical location, her country had experienced natural disasters such as floods, land degradation, desertification, water scarcity and hotter climate conditions. To address the transboundary and global challenge of sand and dust storms, the country had recently hosted the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, with support from the United Nations. Unilateral sanctions had worsened existing environmental issues, in particular by restricting the ability of targeted countries to obtain foreign goods, services and technologies to lessen environmental harm and by preventing international banks, investors and lending agencies from funding environmental projects. They were also an obstacle to environmental cooperation, hindering international

cooperation and undermining United Nations activities by weakening multilateralism and strengthening unilateralism.

16. **Ms. Curzio Vila** (Mexico) said that the international community had been negligent in its collective action and needed to raise the level of ambition. Faced with a multidimensional crisis, it was no longer acceptable to resort to agreed language: the temperature to be lowered was that of the planet, not of politics. It was not the political temperature that caused forest fires, floods, loss of biodiversity and an imbalance in the oceans, but the temperature of the planet. Technical updates were not an option for the planet.

17. Climate action must therefore be accelerated with ambitious, sustainable, science-based solutions that respected nature and guaranteed the means of implementation, capacity-building, technology transfer and climate finance, with a focus on human rights and gender. More resources were needed for adaptation and mitigation, and the loss and damage fund should be operationalized for climate-vulnerable developing countries. Mexico continued to advocate climate action, and invited countries to join the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Fund for Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Response to Natural Disasters. It sought to boost prevention, preparation and response efforts in the context of the Sendai Framework and to promote knowledge on existential and emerging systemic risks. The country would also implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by developing local capacities and means of implementation and involving Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and young people as users and managers of biodiversity and biocultural heritage. Furthermore, it was essential to mobilize resources for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.

18. Mexico welcomed the signing of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity and looked forward to the establishment of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. The country was developing plans for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal areas, in particular for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples, women and young people, and would promote Sustainable Development Goal 6 as a cross-cutting theme. Greater consideration should be given to drought resilience, to the management and sustainable use of water, using science-based policies, and to water insecurity. As President of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Assembly, Mexico would promote the New Urban Agenda, intelligent, sustainable

and inclusive cities and orderly urbanization. Lastly, it considered that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls were not only a human right, but also as a fundamental requirement for building a more sustainable, prosperous and peaceful world.

19. **Ms. Banaken Elel** (Cameroon) said that her country had adopted a results-oriented strategy to respond to structural challenges through social inclusion and to consolidate social development gains, especially in terms of health, education and social and environmental resilience. Despite its carbon capture efforts, Cameroon was concerned that a fair economic evaluation of forest ecosystem services was yet to be fully acknowledged. A mechanism was required to finance biodiversity through payments for environmental and ecosystem services, taking into account environmental effectiveness, economic efficiency and equity and involving countries of the Congo Basin. As well as additional financial resources and stronger scientific cooperation, a new quantified objective was needed to finance climate action and address the real needs of developing countries.

20. Cameroon expected stakeholders to respect the commitment made at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to provide \$1.5 billion in funding for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and to replenish the Green Climate Fund and the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin, as well as to undertake urgent reform of the Adaptation Fund to secure the energy transition. In line with the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative, Cameroon was pursuing efforts to achieve carbon neutrality and reach the renewable energy target of 25 per cent by 2030. Without restricting growth, the country's climate ambition had been revised upwards at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, to a 35 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Cameroon offered a solution to the triple planetary crises, owing to the importance of the Congo Basin forest massif. Constructive engagement, cooperation, coordination and coherence with other countries were needed to meet climate goals, including through compliance with the commitments made at the international meeting entitled "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity".

21. **Mr. Jasim** (Iraq) said that sustainable development faced numerous challenges that could only be met by multilateral action by the international community. His country faced numerous challenges connected with water scarcity, including land erosion, desertification, loss of vegetative cover and soil salinity. Nevertheless, it remained committed to maintaining

biological diversity and preserving resources for the use of future generations. It had declared its nationally determined contribution as a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

22. Iraq was an energy-producing country and also a country vulnerable to climate change. It was committed to both affordable energy for all and the sovereignty of countries over their energy resources. Measures to address climate change should be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Iraq looked forward to international assistance for its national mitigation and adaptation strategies. It was particularly affected by sandstorms, which destroyed vegetative cover, posed threats to air traffic and exacerbated respiratory problems. It was of the utmost importance to agree on an international mechanism on transboundary water resources.

23. **Mr. Phuaknuem** (Thailand) said that, at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, it was clear that collective efforts should be enhanced to achieve sustainable development. To accelerate action to protect the planet, developed countries must fulfil their financial commitments, including \$100 billion in climate finance, and enable technology transfer and capacity-building for developing countries. Financing for adaptation should be increased to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation, and his country looked forward to the operationalization of new funding arrangements for loss and damage and a global goal on adaptation at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

24. With disasters becoming more frequent and intense, it was important to build resilience focused on risk reduction, preparedness and a renewed sense of urgency. To implement the Sendai Framework in full and ensure effective disaster risk management, a risk-informed approach, early warning mechanisms and strengthened international cooperation were essential, as set out in the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework. Increased investment in effective multi-hazard early warning systems, such as the Early Warnings for All initiative, was also required.

25. South-South and triangular cooperation and other collaborative partnerships between countries and stakeholders at all levels were crucial to implementing the 2030 Agenda. Thailand had shared its sufficiency economy philosophy and bio-circular green economy model with other developing countries to promote balanced, inclusive growth while taking into account environmental factors. It had also worked with local

communities to advance the Sustainable Development Goals at the grass-roots level, and had provided incentives to the private sector to promote sustainability by scaling up investment in the Goals in the form of sustainability bonds and a green taxonomy.

26. **Mr. Luemba** (Angola) said that his country was among the sub-Saharan countries most affected by climate change and extreme weather events, especially floods and droughts. The rising scale and impact of natural disasters on lives, livelihoods and ecosystems, as well as the resulting economic losses, had jeopardized efforts to achieve sustainable development.

27. Disaster risk reduction was a priority for his Government, having been integrated it into all sectors as part of its national development plan for 2023–2027, which contained a strategy for prevention, mitigation, response and recovery during disasters. Disaster prevention projects were being implemented in schools and communities as part of an African Union disaster risk reduction programme and, in conjunction with the United Nations Children’s Fund, Angola had developed teaching materials on issues related to drought, floods, malaria, natural disasters and other cross-cutting themes, which would be incorporated into the school curriculum.

28. Angola was developing early warning systems for floods and droughts to ensure that communities were informed of threats, as well as response mechanisms to safeguard human lives and livelihoods. Data collected at early warning stations on rivers in the south of the country enabled the remote monitoring of water level measurement points so that the authorities could make prompt decisions. Preventive measures had been taken to mitigate disasters in Angola and the region, including a post-disaster risk assessment on the drought in the south of the country and the drought recovery framework for 2018–2022, supported by the United Nations Development Programme. Angola was also the focal point for the implementation of the Southern Africa Development Community climate services programme, which would promote the use of climate monitoring and forecasting in climate risk management and environmental management. The country intended to set up a monitoring, verification and reporting mechanism and a national climate observatory and to bolster local response capacity by establishing disaster risk management committees.

29. **Ms. Bayramli-Hamidova** (Azerbaijan) said that her country had aligned more than 40 national programmes, strategies and action plans with the Sustainable Development Goals between 2017 and 2022, and had submitted three voluntary national

reviews, with a fourth expected to be presented at the high-level political forum in 2024. In addition, Azerbaijan had declared its readiness to host the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, underscoring its commitment to contributing substantively to global climate action. It had also pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 40 per cent by 2050 and to establish a net-zero emissions zone in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan. To increase the share of renewable energy in its overall energy framework to 30 per cent by 2030, Azerbaijan had invited local and international investors to provide long-term, sustainable, affordable and environmentally friendly energy sources.

30. Peace and stability were the foundations of sustainable development. As it transitioned to a post-conflict phase after restoring its territorial integrity and sovereignty, Azerbaijan would focus on the rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration of the Karabakh region. By embracing a forward-looking development concept that included the creation of smart cities in the region and turning it into a hub for the green economy and tourism, Azerbaijan would rebuild infrastructure and foster intelligent urban environments that enhanced residents’ quality of life through the integration of innovative technologies and sustainable practices.

31. Emphasizing national ownership and acknowledging the needs and aspirations of each country were crucial for implementing the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, Azerbaijan had called for an eighteenth Goal on demining. Successfully removing mines, restoring cleared areas and enabling the return of displaced people would address immediate humanitarian concerns while also contributing to long-term sustainable development. Building on the work of the recent Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the Summit of the Future in 2024 would be a critical platform to enhance cooperation and address gaps in global governance in the face of emerging challenges, and its action-oriented outcome document, the Pact for the Future, would offer unmatched opportunities to intensify efforts to achieve the Goals.

32. **Mr. Leschenko** (Ukraine) said that Ukraine supported the Sustainable Development Goals as tools for the promotion of social, economic and political transformation, at the national, regional and global levels. His Government remained committed to achieving all 17 Goals and their respective targets. Before it was invaded in February 2022, Ukraine had made progress towards achieving 14 of the 17 Goals, particularly in the areas of poverty reduction,

educational reform, renewable energy and sustainable urban and community development, and had presented its first voluntary national review at the 2020 high-level political forum. The active use of information and communication technologies was critical for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Despite its current challenges, Ukraine was continuing to introduce global innovations and train personnel in that field.

33. In addition to the threats posed by global conflicts, pandemics and climate change, Ukraine's efforts to implement the 2030 agenda had been further undermined by the war it was facing. The environment had been irreparably damaged as a result of violations in the Chernobyl exclusion zone, the seizure of and security threats to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, hostilities at chemical plants in the Donbas regions, and the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant and a portion of the Tol'yatti-Odesa ammonia pipeline. A total of 2,500 incidents and over \$57 billion in environmental damage had already been recorded, as a direct consequence of Russia's war of aggression. Furthermore, 10 national parks, eight reserves and two biosphere reserves remained under foreign occupation, almost a third of Ukrainian forests had been damaged and hundreds of animal species had been affected, including 80 on the verge of extinction. Close to one third of Ukraine's territory remained potentially dangerous, owing to the presence of Russian mines and unexploded ordnance.

34. In view of the foregoing, progress had been jeopardized in areas such as poverty reduction, food security, education, water and sanitation, energy, economic growth, resilient infrastructure, cities and human settlements and climate change. Bringing the war to an end and restoring respect for international law and the Charter of the United Nations would enable the international community to focus more efforts on funding and promoting the Goals.

35. **Mr. Jo Tong Hyon** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that while progress had been made in several areas of the 2030 Agenda, there were still many obstacles on the path towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. At the midpoint of the implementation period, clear and effective means for further development were required, together with an increased sense of international responsibility. While the 2030 Agenda sought to create a peaceful environment for the survival and sustainable development of humankind, some countries were seeking confrontation with different camps and forming blocs, in pursuit of supremacy and selfish interests. Such behaviour had resulted in armed conflicts and

geopolitical disputes, which were hampering the achievement of the Goals.

36. The grave situation on the Korean Peninsula, which had been caused by large-scale joint military exercises and dangerous provocative manoeuvres by the United States of America and its allies, was a major hindrance to the sustainable development of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In the pursuit of peace, the international community should oppose and reject all attempts to undermine global peace and security and obstruct human progress and development. The 2030 Agenda was a common action programme for all countries, and developing countries' right to achieve the Goals should be fully respected. There remained significant gaps between developed and developing countries, owing to the former's efforts to limit access to and the use of international finance and trade markets by making unreasonable politicized demands. The application of discriminatory measures in areas including science and technology, education and public health was weakening developing countries' potential to improve the livelihoods and well-being of their populations. The unilateral coercive measures imposed by specific Powers had a significant impact on the economic growth of developing countries and made it difficult for them to effectively realize the Goals. Those countries should no longer tolerate the high-handed and arbitrary infringements on their sovereignty and right to development.

37. His Government was making progress towards achieving the Goals, including through the adoption of a new five-year economic development plan that was in line with the 2030 Agenda, and remained committed to fulfilling its role and responsibility as a member of the international community.

38. **Mr. Gertze** (Namibia) said that his country had embraced sustainable development and was fully committed to the principles, goals, targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda. Namibia had resolved to incorporate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the implementation of its national development programme, national development plans and other frameworks, such as the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan of the Southern African Development Community. Concerted efforts and partnerships were required to advance progress towards achieving the Goals, with special focus on Goals 1, 8 and 10, which were closely linked to Namibia's triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

39. Like most developing countries, Namibia faced social, economic, environmental and developmental obstacles, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, water scarcity, drought, and food insecurity. Since scientific solutions and technological knowledge were required to address those obstacles, establishing a functional and responsive national science, technology and innovation system was critical for enhancing economic competitiveness. Access to technology could help to accelerate progress and bridge gaps in the areas of education, food, health care and economic development. Developing countries and their development partners should therefore navigate technological challenges and harness opportunities by fostering technology transfers, skill development and collaboration. In that regard his delegation looked forward to the adoption of the global digital compact.

40. As Namibia continued to coordinate its national capabilities and enhance its resilience, his delegation called on the Committee to show flexibility, genuine solidarity and cooperation in its discussions. The gap between wealthy and marginalized communities was a moral concern and a threat to global stability. It was important to create an inclusive environment with shared prosperity and support for meaningful reforms aimed at reinvigorating the United Nations development agenda. Namibia welcomed initiatives such as United Nations 2.0 and the quintet of change, to enhance the capabilities of the Organization in terms of data, digital innovation and expertise.

41. Continued advocacy for gender equality was a key element of the journey towards a just and inclusive world. It was not only a matter of fairness, but also an essential step for unlocking innovation, diversity and social cohesion. Namibia was proud to have been ranked as the eighth country worldwide, by the Global Gender Gap Report 2023 of the World Economic Forum, with respect to its efforts to close the gender gap. In the same vein, it believed in promoting inclusive and effective governance to ensure the inclusion of young people in decision-making structures.

42. **Mr. Pary Rodríguez** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that his delegation was concerned about the systematic omission of the principles of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and especially the principle of equity, from the Committee's discussions and the different reports under consideration. Those reports confirmed the existence of a systemic social, economic and environmental crisis. It was no longer sufficient to focus global climate action on mitigation and adaptation. The international community should begin to address the losses and damages suffered by developing countries as a result of

extreme weather events. In that context, the upcoming global stocktake should give rise to a review of unfulfilled commitments and a reform of financial mechanisms, based on the needs of developing countries. The new collective quantified goal on climate finance should be extremely ambitious and include an appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Furthermore, global net zero emissions could only be achieved by 2050 if developed countries stopped increasing their real emissions well before then. For that to be feasible and to ensure energy security for all, there was a need for fair and equitable transitions, based on historical responsibilities, current needs and future possibilities.

43. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework would play a key role in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Future efforts should be consistent with international agreements, and ensure that developed countries supported their developing counterparts with respect to the financial means, policy measures and actions required to address current challenges. The implementation of the Framework should include actions centred on Mother Earth, with a rights-based approach to restoring harmonious and complementary relationships between people and nature, and preventing the commodification of environmental functions. The Committee should continue to highlight the importance of agenda item 15 and its sub-items, in order to avoid reducing sustainable development to the sole consideration of environmental aspects. The current systemic crisis called for concrete and ambitious responses and an integrated approach to rearticulating the dimensions of sustainable development.

44. **Ms. Hameed** (Maldives) said that the promise of the 2030 Agenda was in peril, as most of its targets were off-track and in need of decisive and immediate action. Maldives had presented its second voluntary national review, highlighting its progress and challenges, at the 2023 high-level political forum. Her Government was determined to harness the potential of digital transformation by making digital platforms more accessible to the population. In that regard, it looked forward to meaningfully engaging in the intergovernmental processes of the global digital compact. Maldives welcomed the Sustainable Development Goal stimulus, but recognized that an effective long-term solution could only be reached by reforming the international financial architecture.

45. In its voluntary national review, Maldives had also underscored the vulnerability of small island developing States. Her delegation welcomed the final report of the High-level Panel on the Development of a



Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States, which should serve as a tool for determining allocations of concessional finance. Climate change continued to pose a serious threat to the sustainable development of small island developing States and, in the lead-up to the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Maldives called on international financial institutions and development partners to ensure that those States, together with all developing countries, had access to finance for mitigation, adaptation and addressing loss and damage. For the foregoing reasons, the international community should work towards an ambitious outcome at the first global stocktake. As Co-Chair of the Preparatory Committee of the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Maldives would endeavour to include issues of mutual importance in the next Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

46. To avoid doing irreparable damage, there was an urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and uphold the international commitment to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Maldives had pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030. In the same vein, her Government was committed to preserving the country's oceans and marine ecosystems, and had taken concrete steps to reduce plastic pollution by phasing out single-use plastics. An internationally binding agreement was needed to combat such pollution, together with support for ratifying and implementing the recently adopted Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity.

47. Sustainable development for all could not be achieved without gender equality. Women should be empowered and included in decision-making processes and instances. Maldives had made considerable progress in advancing the rights of women and girls at both the national and international levels. During its presidency of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly, key milestones had been achieved, including the creation of the General Assembly Platform of Women Leaders and the adoption of a resolution to establish the International Day of Women in Diplomacy, to be celebrated annually on 24 June.

48. **Mr. Kenga** (Kenya) said that climate change was a major cause for concern, as it posed challenges to the development aspirations of many developing countries and hindered their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. *The State of the Climate in Africa 2022* report of the World Meteorological Organization underscored that Africa bore a disproportionate burden

from the impact of climate change. In recent decades, drought-related hazards had claimed over half a million lives on the continent and had inflicted more than \$70 billion in economic losses. According to projections, climate change could cost African nations \$50 billion annually. African Governments were already incurring substantial costs and allocating approximately 10 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) to finance adaptation efforts. Addressing the impact of climate change required immediate collective efforts, which should be the focus of Governments and policymakers worldwide. In that regard, his delegation hoped that the African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action and the outcomes of the recent Climate Action Summit would provide impetus for the upcoming global stocktake.

49. It was important to recognize the link between nature, climate stability, human well-being and sustainable development. Kenya acknowledged the critical role of conservation and biodiversity in supporting cultural, economic and environmental needs, and had taken measures to promote the sustainable use of its terrestrial ecosystem, and to increase tree cover from 12.3 per cent to 30 per cent by 2032. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework would make it possible to ensure that nature was on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and the planet.

50. While an increasing number of countries had adopted national disaster risk reduction strategies, implementation at the local level remained insufficient. For an inclusive implementation of the Sendai Framework, countries should foster community and stakeholder participation in disaster risk reduction. To that end, developing countries needed sustainable means of implementation, enhanced partnerships and research on emergent challenges relating to disasters. They should also adhere to United Nations frameworks on environmental conservation, disaster management and sustainable natural resource exploitation.

51. Achieving universal access to energy was critical for building resilient economies and societies. In sub-Saharan Africa, three quarters of the population currently lacked access to energy. Kenya would continue to promote renewable, modern, sustainable and affordable energy, and was aiming to switch to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030. To achieve such ambitions, developing countries needed technical assistance and capacity-building, supportive policy frameworks, knowledge exchange and accurate data on clean energy initiatives.

52. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable

development were inextricably interlinked. It was therefore logical to jointly examine Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 13. There seemed to be a global understanding that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would require collective efforts to review previous approaches to production and consumption, since those approaches had a significant impact on climate change. At the same time, there was cause for concern with respect to the very limited progress in achieving Goals 12 and 13. Accelerating progress towards the realization of those Goals, and the other Goals and indicators of the 2030 Agenda, required a transformation of the production, processing, distribution and consumption of products.

53. In that regard, his delegation recognized the importance of all stakeholders in implementing the Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023–2030. It was difficult to discuss sustainable food consumption, when the populations of some of the least developed countries were experiencing acute hunger as a result of the ongoing food crisis. That crisis had not been provoked by a lack of food, as experts continued to point out that sufficient food was being produced. One of the causes was the decision by some Western countries to impose illegal economic restrictions against Belarus and the Russian Federation, thereby reducing the supply of food and fertilizer on international markets. That decision had triggered a chain of events, which had ultimately led to rising hunger. Unless the root causes of that artificial crisis were addressed, the international community would not be able to resolve the problem of hunger in several developing countries. Those States that were responsible for erecting artificial barriers should remove them.

54. Belarus was fully committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and had outlined its strategy for doing so at the recent Sustainable Development Goals Summit. His Government attached significant importance to achieving sustainable national production and consumption. To guarantee the success of its efforts, Belarus was gradually transitioning to the principles of the circular or green economy. Those principles were already enshrined in major strategic documents, such as the national sustainable social and economic development strategy for the period leading up to 2035, which reflected the three dimensions of sustainable development. His Government was taking steps to introduce green principles into the national economy, as those principles were important tools for ensuring sustainable development and environmental security. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment

Programme, the International Telecommunication Union and the Regional Economic Commissions had provided critical assistance to many countries, to bolster their transitions to a circular economy. His delegation welcomed their ongoing efforts in that area and called on them to maintain their support.

55. **Mr. Dipama** (Burkina Faso) said that sub-Saharan African countries were facing a multidimensional crisis. In his own country, terrorist acts had led to the displacement of approximately 2 million people, the closure of thousands of schools and health centres, and the confiscation of arable land and livestock. That situation had led to growing needs in the areas of food and nutrition, education, health care, drinking water, hygiene, sanitation, social protection and housing, and had made it even more challenging to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

56. However, despite the security and humanitarian crises, Burkina Faso had made significant progress in the promotion of economic and social development, good governance, justice, equity and the fight against corruption. Humanitarian assistance had included support for recovery efforts, the social and economic reintegration of internally displaced persons, and the strengthening of crisis prevention and management. Over the period 2016–2022, his country's economy had grown at an annual rate of 5.2 per cent and domestic resource mobilization had progressed by 13.3 per cent annually. Stronger global partnerships had resulted in the doubling of ODA over the period 2016–2021. However, despite the foregoing, there was an urgent need to mobilize an additional \$16 billion to finance the Goals.

57. Burkina Faso had based its sustainable development strategy on the outcomes of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. It had devised a national sustainable development policy in 2013 and had adopted a legal framework for its implementation in 2014. In 2016, his Government had implemented a national economic and social development plan and, more recently, had adopted a plan of action for stabilization and development. The latter was aimed at restoring and strengthening security nationwide; providing an urgent and effective response to the humanitarian crisis; promoting good governance and the fight against corruption; conducting political, administrative and institutional reforms; encouraging national reconciliation and social cohesion; and organizing free, transparent and fair elections. Given the need to accelerate progress towards achieving the Goals, the international community should take into account the

needs of developing countries, like his own, that were facing major security, humanitarian and climate challenges.

58. **Mr. Vorshilov** (Mongolia) said that his delegation welcomed the decision for his country to host the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, in 2026. Mongolia was making every effort to properly prepare for the Conference and looked forward to the continued support and cooperation of partner countries and international organizations in that regard.

59. In its effort to combat climate change, Mongolia had allocated 1 per cent of its annual GDP to mitigating the impact of climate change and desertification. It had launched a national campaign to plant 1 billion trees by 2030, in order to reach net-zero emissions targets, reduce poverty, combat desertification and protect the health of the most vulnerable. That initiative, which reflected the traditional culture of caring for nature, would help to reduce the dust storms that affected the country's environment, economy and public health. His Government wished to cooperate with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other interested Member States and development partners to mitigate land degradation in the agricultural sector, offer economic incentives, develop agroforestry and introduce smart agricultural solutions.

60. Over half of the planet's land surface was classified as rangelands, which were among the harshest environments since they were mostly located in drylands, steep mountains and extremely cold areas that were unsuitable for crop production. Rangelands and pastoralism supported the livelihoods and food security of millions of people, and provided nature-based services for the benefit of all. In many countries, pastoralism was a significant source of employment and contributed significantly to GDP. Over 200 million people were involved in raising livestock in pastoral and agropastoral systems, worldwide, and their practices varied according to the type of ecosystem. Accordingly, in 2021, the General Assembly had unanimously adopted a resolution, at the initiative of the Government of Mongolia, to declare 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. That initiative would increase global understanding of the importance of rangelands and pastoralism to global food security and environmental services, and highlight valuable traditional knowledge. It would also foster innovations aimed at enhancing sustainability, reducing poverty among pastoralists and boosting investment in pastoral systems and the restoration of degraded rangelands.

61. **Ms. Guo Jingnan** (China) said that, at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, close to 90 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goals were off-track. The international community should uphold true multilateralism, strengthen solidarity and mutual trust, and jointly tackle challenges, in order to bring the 2030 Agenda back on track. It should also prioritize development issues, with a focus on people, and allow the fruits of development to benefit all communities in a more equitable manner. The Global Development Initiative proposed by China sought to mobilize resources for development, achieve complementarity and joint development among countries and accelerate the realization of the Goals. All parties should actively participate in the Initiative and work together to build a global community.

62. Member States should work together to address climate change, uphold important principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and fully and effectively implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement. Developed countries should achieve carbon neutrality ahead of schedule and honour their commitments to provide financial, technical and capacity-building support to developing countries. China, which had announced its own carbon peak and carbon neutrality targets, had established a specific policy framework to achieve those targets and had launched the world's largest carbon market, was pursuing extensive South-South cooperation to help other developing countries combat climate change. It would actively support the United Arab Emirates in hosting the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and would work with all parties to establish a fair, reasonable and win-win global climate governance system.

63. The international community should actively protect global biodiversity, foster efforts to respect and conserve nature, and balance environmental conservation with high-quality development. As part of its presidency of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, China had promoted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and had invested 1.5 billion yuan in establishing a biodiversity fund. Her Government would continue to work with all parties to transform commitments made under the Framework into actions. The international community should also continue to pursue green and low-carbon development, strengthen energy policy coordination, jointly maintain energy markets and price stability, and ensure that energy remained accessible and affordable. The

development of sustainable production and consumption patterns should be accelerated to enable a gradual shift away from traditional energy sources towards safer and more reliable alternatives, and promote just energy transitions. China had achieved universal electricity coverage in 2015 and had been vigorously developing clean energy to become a global leader in the production of wind, solar and hydropower, while also constructing nuclear power plants. Her country had been the world's largest producer and seller of electric vehicles for eight consecutive years, and had worked with more than 100 countries and territories on green energy projects.

64. Development could only be effective and sustainable when all countries developed together. The international community should uphold the spirit of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits to build on the momentum of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and implement the 2030 Agenda as scheduled.

65. **Mr. Nguyen** Hoang Nguyen (Viet Nam) said that it was high time to focus on the "to-do list" outlined in 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). His country would spare no effort in that regard. Financing for development must be ensured through international, public and private sources, including ODA and foreign direct investment, as well as the contributions of relevant organizations and communities to the Sustainable Development Goals. He urged developed countries to realize their financing commitments to international financial institutions and called for developing countries to be provided with adequate access to concessional and climate finance.

66. It was imperative for Member States to improve the quality of human resources through the development of equal, inclusive and comprehensive educational and vocational training systems. At the same time, investment in early childhood education, digital technologies for education and education in emergencies needed to be scaled up to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

67. Viet Nam had made further commitments related to climate action to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, which would help to accelerate the implementation of the Goals. With the support of international partners, it had established the Just Energy Transition Partnership to leverage adequate resources to fulfil the country's climate ambitions and move towards green

development, energy transition and the circular economy.

68. **Mr. Hassan** (United Arab Emirates) said that the Sustainable Development Goals were central to his country's domestic and foreign policies, including its Vision 2071 plan. In December 2023, the United Arab Emirates would be hosting the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. His delegation would be playing an active role in facilitating the current session's draft resolution on protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind. It would also be paying particular attention to the draft resolution on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. With the demand for energy forecast to rise dramatically even as the need to reduce carbon emissions became more urgent, a fair energy transition would be a major focus of climate action on which all stakeholders would need to work together.

69. In July 2023, the United Arab Emirates had announced its third update to its nationally determined contributions, with a reduction target of a 40 per cent. It would be investing some \$54 billion to dramatically increase its renewable energy production over the next seven years, with a focus on clean hydrogen. It was home to the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world, which was on track to reach a capacity of 5,000 megawatts by 2030.

70. **Mr. Coraiola Yinde Kloss** (Brazil) said that the upcoming global stocktake at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was a crucial moment for highlighting advances and identifying key implementation gaps, in particular with regard to climate finance. The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity had been a key milestone. Following the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, further work was needed to increase the mobilization of additional resources and ensure the Fund's effective implementation.

71. The new presidential Administration of Brazil had been taking decisive measures to translate the country's commitment to sustainable development into robust action. It had enhanced its emissions reduction commitments, despite the fact that its historical responsibilities were much smaller than those of developed countries. Deforestation in the Amazon had been reduced by almost 50 per cent in eight months, and

Brazil was fully committed to zero deforestation by 2030. Meanwhile, a new cooperation agenda had been launched at a summit of Amazon nations held in August in Belem, Brazil. In addition, the country's recently launched ecological transformation plan would ensure investment in sustainable industrialization and infrastructure, providing incentives for sustainable finance, the creation of decent jobs, the decarbonization of major economic sectors and the reduction of inequalities. Brazil would also keep working to ensure a diverse and clean energy mix in the years to come, including from solar, wind, hydro and biomass sources, accompanied by policies to decarbonize its transportation sector.

72. **Ms. Chan Valverde** (Costa Rica) said that her country had worked hard to achieve a just transition by increasing productivity, enhancing social inclusion and strengthening institutions, governance and environmental sustainability. As part of a region that was extremely vulnerable to climate change, Costa Rica was committed to investing in resilience through prevention, preparation and rapid and effective response. That included urgent implementation of the results of the midterm review of the Sendai Framework to better address the systemic nature of risk and avoid exacerbating existing inequalities, including gender inequalities. She called on all actors, in particular the largest emitters, to demonstrate their commitment through nationally determined contributions to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. She also called for the immediate operationalization of the loss and damage fund.

73. Costa Rica was creating new mechanisms to protect and manage marine and terrestrial biodiversity and achieve the goal of protecting 30 per cent of the world's land and oceans by 2030. Such mechanisms included the compensation of Indigenous Peoples for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the launch of a national blue carbon strategy. Her country was also designing a payment scheme for the environmental services provided by mangroves in order to ensure more equitable distribution of benefits for coastal communities. In addition, it had included sustainable agricultural production as part of its "Essential Costa Rica" country brand to raise awareness of actions to prevent deforestation, reduce emissions and promote energy efficiency and the use of sustainable, efficient and cost-effective production models under the category of "zero net deforestation and zero emissions".

74. Ahead of the 2025 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, Costa Rica was organizing a high-level event entitled "Ocean action: immersed in change" to promote ambition, action and implementation related to the sustainable use of the ocean.

75. **Ms. Haji Zaini** (Brunei Darussalam) said that her country was fully committed to accelerating action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the Brunei Vision 2035 development plan. Brunei Darussalam sought to further improve its national Goal tracker and would continue to enhance the country's data ecosystem to bridge data gaps and respond to both domestic and global data requirements.

76. Her country was also strengthening its efforts to localize the Goals and make the 2030 Agenda more inclusive, sustainable and transformative. At the recent Sustainable Development Goals Summit, it had joined the global community in delivering transformative commitments to further localize sustainability, including by pledging to ensure inclusive and quality education, decent jobs and an enabling ecosystem so that everyone could thrive and participate in society. Efforts to reverse regression in achieving Goal 12 had also been intensified, including by exploring green and circular economy models for optimizing resource management and creating economic opportunities.

77. Brunei Darussalam was also empowering youth as agents of change to contribute to and drive the sustainable development agenda by actively encouraging their involvement and integrating them in decision-making processes. Such efforts included youth representation within the Legislative Council and the involvement of young people in consultations on the development of the national youth policy and strategy for the period 2020-2035. In addition, to foster the development and empowerment of future sustainability leaders, the first annual youth dialogue on the Goals had been held in May 2023. Her country was determined to play its part in creating a sustainable future for its citizens while securing their economic prosperity and setting an example for the region and beyond.

78. **Ms. Ouatiki** (Morocco) said that the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the Climate Ambition Summit had both recently concluded that the promise of the Goals could not be met without a focus on environmental sustainability that included governance and effective means of implementation. Morocco would strongly advocate for bold policy guidance during the current session. Under the leadership of King Mohammed VI, Morocco had mobilized national stakeholders within the framework of the 2020 new development model to accelerate the country's path of sustainable development. It had set out an ambitious

national climate plan aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 and had increased investments in renewable energy. The country was on track to achieve its goal of meeting 52 per cent of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2030 and was accelerating its green hydrogen production efforts. It also continued to focus on agricultural adaptation to climate change and reinforcement of the resilience of the African continent.

79. The stimulus for the Goals proposed by the Secretary-General would help to pave the way for a new, fair and sustainable global financial system. Her country supported initiatives such as debt-for-climate swaps and raising ambition for financing climate mitigation products in developing countries. Morocco continued to work with the African Development Bank and the United Nations system in the field of resilient agriculture, especially in Africa and around the Congo Basin. As the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change approached, there was a need to ensure the achievement of tangible outcomes in advancing more equitable access to climate finance, especially to address climate adaptation projects in Africa and small island developing States. Morocco also would continue its efforts to strengthen multidimensional South-South and triangular cooperation.

80. **Ms. Gahlot** (India) said that, in a country like India, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was possible only through localization, given the diversity of issues at the local level and the magnitude of the challenges. The knowledge that had emerged from the localization process could benefit other countries. India continued to be an active partner for small island developing States, including through its Presidency of the Group of 20 (G20). For that reason, it had invited Mauritius to participate in the G20 process and bring the concerns of those States to the table. A comprehensive approach to sustainable development required responding to challenges in coastal zones. India had been working on a national blue economy policy to ensure efficient and sustainable utilization of ocean resources and to integrate and boost ocean-related capabilities, capacities and skills, with a view to accelerating employment and gross value addition while safeguarding the environment.

81. In recent times, geopolitical conflicts had placed a great burden on the countries of the global South when it came to ensuring energy security, which had compounded the pressures of climate change and environmental degradation. The International Solar Alliance, launched by India and France in 2015, was

therefore a ray of hope through its rapidly progressing solarization programmes. India would continue to build such coalitions with its friends and partners.

82. To make progress on the Goals, the countries of the global South must be assured of the means of implementation for achieving their climate objectives. Operationalizing the loss and damage fund, providing more resources for adaptation projects in developing countries and replenishing the Green Climate Fund were key priorities for developing countries and required urgent action on the part of developed countries. Strong political will was also needed for implementing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and for combating sand and dust storms.

83. **Ms. Yuan Fang** (Singapore) said that the world was already on the right path to sustainability but needed to act with more urgency and ambition. It needed to pay immediate attention to the existential threat of climate change, which was too large for any country to address alone. The record-breaking heatwaves earlier in the year and climate-related disasters such as the devastating floods in Libya served as a stark reminder of what would become the norm if the world did not act quickly. Steps had been taken to address the threat. Many countries had pledged to reach net-zero emissions by mid-century, carbon pricing had gained traction, and investment in decarbonization technologies had grown. Nevertheless, the world remained far from limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

84. Singapore was firmly committed to doing its part. In 2021, it had launched the Singapore Green Plan 2030 to integrate sustainable development across the environmental, economic, energy, transport and infrastructure sectors. Furthermore, Singapore would raise its carbon tax from 2024, with a clear timeline for reaching between \$36 and \$58 per ton by 2030. More than many other countries, Singapore would have to depend on innovative solutions to decarbonize, owing to its lack of natural renewable energy sources and physical constraints. The country's first floating solar farm had been launched in 2021, spanning an area the size of 45 soccer fields. Singapore had also started to tap low-carbon energy beyond its shores. The transition to a low-carbon future would require substantial economic restructuring and financial investments in the short term. That would not be easy, in particular for developing countries, given current post-pandemic economic conditions and geopolitical challenges. The cost of inaction, however, would be infinitely higher.

85. **Mr. Edokpa** (Nigeria) said that his country remained committed to working alongside the African

Union, regional economic communities and all Member States to ensure that the ambitions of the African continent were reflected in global sustainable development discussions and actions. Nigeria would continue to support common African positions that advanced the continent's interests and promoted a fair and equitable global development agenda.

86. Financing for development and mobilizing domestic resources remained critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Nigeria had recently launched the Renewed Hope Initiative, which encompassed food security, poverty eradication, economic growth, job creation, access to capital, improved security, the rule of law and the fight against corruption. The Government had also announced plans to spend 75 billion naira to fund 75 enterprises and support sustainable economic growth, accelerate structural transformation and improve productivity. Nigeria was redoubling its efforts to grow its economy through various diversification initiatives, including by creating a federal ministry focused on the marine and blue economy and establishing a presidential task force focused on reviewing fiscal policy and tax reform to promote ease of doing business in Nigeria. His country supported ongoing efforts for the adoption of an international tax convention to enable uniformity in international tax regimes. Concerted action was needed to assist developing, especially African, countries in blocking financial leakages from the excesses of illicit financial flows.

87. He welcomed the proposed stimulus for the Goals, as well as the conversion of short-term loans at high-interest rates to long-term loans at low-interest rates. The international financial architecture needed to be reformed, including through comprehensive debt relief measures, especially for African economies. The Committee should prioritize lasting solutions for developing countries that would ensure sustainable financing and inclusive resilient recovery.

88. **Mr. Rupende** (Zimbabwe) said that the serious challenges facing the world required collaboration and transformative collective action by Governments, businesses and civil society organizations towards achieving sustainable development, not a maintenance of the status quo. Thus far, the "decade of action" devoted to realizing the 2030 Agenda had been characterized by mistrust and unfulfilled promises. The global recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic had made it even more difficult to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, but it had also provided a renewed mandate to tackle them. The twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the first

global stocktake should advance endeavours to integrate resilience and adaptability into global strategies for achieving the Goals.

89. In line with its ambitious goal of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2030, Zimbabwe was prioritizing boosting productivity and quality jobs, including by ensuring and sustaining macroeconomic stability, supporting export diversification and participation in global value chains, and taking greater advantage of regional trade integration. The post-pandemic recovery must prioritize inclusivity. Unilateral coercive measures imposed on several countries, including Zimbabwe, should be lifted immediately and unconditionally. Securing adequate financing remained pivotal. With so many commitments unfulfilled, strengthening mechanisms for accountability and data collection had also become essential.

90. **Ms. Barba Bustos** (Ecuador) said that her country was extremely vulnerable to climate change. While average world temperatures were projected to increase by 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century, they were expected to rise by even more in the Galápagos Islands and the Amazon, and be accompanied by the intensification of natural climate phenomena such as El Niño. Although Ecuador generated an insignificant amount of greenhouse gas emissions, it was committed to the fight against climate change. It sought to advance ambitious climate action programmes and projects as part of its national strategy on climate change. Increasing climate ambition required developed countries to meet the target of mobilizing \$100 billion annually in climate financing for developing countries. She called for scaling up such resources and expediting technology transfer and capacity-building, in conformity with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

91. As a country of incredible biodiversity with unique and fragile ecosystems, Ecuador supported the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity for current and future generations. In that regard, it was guided by an ecological transition policy aimed at guaranteeing the sustainability of its natural water assets, as well as sustainable production and consumption, including by combating plastic pollution. It also had a national biodiversity strategy. Guided by the Sendai Framework, Ecuador promoted prevention and resilience as essential components of disaster risk reduction. With the imminent arrival of El Niño, her country was activating a contingency plan to address the extremely serious potential impacts of that phenomenon.

92. **Mr. Alkhuraibet** (Kuwait) said that unfortunately, the Sustainable Development Goals Summit had made clear that at the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda, the Goals were far from being achieved. His delegation expressed its appreciation to Ireland and Qatar for facilitating the political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and for making sure to steer clear of any measures that might undermine developing countries' efforts to achieve the Goals.

93. The "New Kuwait" Vision 2035 plan incorporated many of the Goals, with a view to making Kuwait a pioneering commercial and cultural centre. In July 2023, Kuwait had presented its second voluntary national review to the high-level political forum. A major commitment would be required to overcome the formidable development obstacles posed to many States by climate change.

94. Sustainability and stability were intimately connected. In that connection, Kuwait expressed its surprise at the recent ruling by the Federal Supreme Court of the Republic of Iraq declaring unconstitutional the 2012 agreement on maritime navigation in Khor Abdullah, and the decision by the Government of Iraq to rescind the security exchange protocol signed in 2008. That decision would threaten security and stability in the region and impede sustainable development. He stressed the need to comply with bilateral agreements and the relevant international resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution [833 \(1993\)](#), and urged the Government of Iraq to take immediate measures to rectify the situation.

95. **Mr. Sowa** (Sierra Leone) said that his country remained committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and strongly supported the call of the Secretary-General for a stimulus for the Goals. During the past five years, Goals 4 and 16 had been designated "accelerators" because their implementation would have a positive impact on achieving the rest of the Goals. As part of those efforts, his Government had rolled out an ambitious free education programme and paid special attention to legal aid, governance and institutional reform, and judicial and peace mediation.

96. A road map had been produced to highlight priority Goals and identify priority areas of investment, namely, boosting agricultural productivity and inclusive economic growth, scaling up investment in human capital development, creating 500,000 jobs for young people in the next five years, launching a technology and infrastructure programme to pave sustainable pathways for economic growth, and promoting professionalism for ensuring an effective and efficient public service architecture. Other priorities included

promoting good governance and accountability for results; diversifying the economy, including by harnessing the blue economy; accelerating gender empowerment and climate change mitigation and adaptation; and scaling up implementation of the country's integrated national financing framework. He stressed the urgent need for enhanced support for developing countries, especially the least developed countries in Africa. He also stressed the urgency of access to climate finance, as well as the need for stronger global cooperation to address rising public debt, the consideration of debt cancellation, especially for vulnerable and fragile countries, and the allocation of special drawing rights (SDRs) or the rechanneling of unused SDRs to developing countries.

97. **Ms. Al Fadhel** (Bahrain) said that her country had incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals into all of its national plans, and had even established a Ministry of Sustainable Development. It worked with the United Nations within the 2021–2024 United Nations Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and had presented its second voluntary national review to the high-level political forum in July 2023. Her country's approach to development was rooted in its "team Bahrain" spirit of solidarity based on partnerships among government, the private sector and civil society organizations. Among its climate-related initiatives was a pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. In March 2023, Bahrain had signed an afforestation strategy with UN-Habitat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

98. In July 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain and the United Nations Development Programme had issued a report highlighting the Kingdom's partnerships at the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda. Bahrain had signed hundreds of memorandums and was a member of numerous regional and international organizations. It had incorporated Goals indicators into numerous government programmes, including its 2023–2026 plan, which stressed sustainability, competitiveness, fairness and environmental protection.

99. **Ms. Javaid** (Pakistan) said that developing nations were struggling to make significant progress on a wide range of Sustainable Development Goals and targets for three main reasons. First, they faced a vast and growing financing gap in achieving the Goals, which had reached \$4.2 billion annually. Second, the severe global economic shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and political instability had led to finance, food and debt crises and reversed progress towards the Goals. Third, the adverse effects of climate change continued to wreak



havoc on the planet, people and their livelihoods, with developing countries, as always, disproportionately affected.

100. There was a need to implement all commitments made under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and at the Sustainable Development Goal Summit, in particular the proposed stimulus for the Goals. The early recapitalization of multilateral development banks, the rechannelling of SDRs, reform of the international financial institutions and the resolution of debt distress were also necessary. In addition, there should be full implementation of the climate change agenda and climate commitments in accordance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of national circumstances. Pledges by developed countries, in particular of \$100 billion in annual climate finance, should be fulfilled and half of that amount allocated for climate adaptation. The loss and damage fund should be activated.

101. The policies of developed nations that contravened the Goals and other commitments needed to be reversed. To that end, the international trading system should be restructured to provide export-led growth for developing countries and policy space for industrialization. A global technology compact aligned with the Goals should be adopted to offer developing countries preferential access to relevant advanced technologies, build their capacities and end discriminatory measures against them. Developing countries should also be assisted in bridging the digital divide through an equitable international information technology regime. Lastly, there was a need to mobilize investments of at least \$1 trillion annually in sustainable and resilient infrastructure in developing countries in the energy, transport, housing, industry and agricultural sectors.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*