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Second Committee**Summary record of the 15th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 10 October 2023, at 3.05 p.m.

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In the absence of Mr. Amorín (Uruguay), Ms. Hsieh (Thailand), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

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)
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- (j) **Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development** (continued) (A/78/293)

1. **Ms. Babikyan** (Armenia) said that the present discussions, the recent high-level meetings on climate financing and health, the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028

(United Nations 2023 Water Conference) and the midterm review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 were an opportunity to get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track for their achievement by 2030. Reversing the impacts of multidimensional and interlinked crises required international cooperation to give a new impetus to the achievement of the Goals.

2. Insufficient climate financing severely constrained development in developing countries, which continued to bear the consequences of climate change despite contributing the least to it. Innovative tools, such as debt for climate swaps, were therefore crucial, and the Loss and Damage Fund should be fully operationalized. In line with its nationally determined contribution and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change, Armenia was aiming for a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and the achievement of net zero emissions by 2050 by increasing the share of its renewable energy sources and energy production.

3. Sustainable development was significantly affected by the socioeconomic and humanitarian consequences of the use of force and other forms of coercion, and threats to regional peace and security undermined efforts to promote sustainable development and well-being in the region. The most recent military aggression against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijan had resulted in the ethnic cleansing and forced dispossession of 100,000 people and the displacement of the entire population of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. Immediate and practical action was needed by the international community, humanitarian organizations and the United Nations to alleviate the suffering and ensure the fundamental rights of the refugees, including the right to safe and dignified return to their ancestral homeland.

4. **Mr. Nunes** (Timor-Leste) said that, with seven years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the achievement of most Sustainable Development Goals was significantly off course. Crises including climate change, conflict and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had disrupted the implementation of the Goals and further exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. Timor-Leste endorsed the Secretary-General’s five recommendations to rescue the Goals. To accelerate their implementation, policies across different sectors must be coherent, aligned with the Goals and adequately funded.

5. Timor-Leste continued to strengthen social protection by developing a national strategy for the period 2021–2030 in order to achieve the Goals, reduce

poverty and improve and expand social security for workers and labourers. Social protection included subsidies for older persons and persons with disabilities, and cash transfers for poor and vulnerable families with children.

6. The national development objectives of Timor-Leste encompassed the protection and conservation of the environment while serving to sustainably harvest its benefits for economic and social transformation. Timor-Leste had revised its forest policy and had enacted biodiversity laws. It had also recently become a signatory of 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. He called upon development partners to continue to support knowledge-sharing and resource and technology investments to advance environmental protection and harness its benefits.

7. **Ms. Hasanova** (Tajikistan) said that, despite progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, risks such as climate-related hazards and disasters could slow or reverse the country's implementation of the 2030 Agenda and threaten agricultural productivity and food security. Amid multiple global crises, it was important to take immediate measures to scale up efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Tajikistan welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to address the financing gap for the Goals and his call for further discussions on a stimulus for the Goals.

8. As a mountainous country with rugged terrain, Tajikistan was highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In addition, it had lost thousands of glaciers in recent decades, which would significantly affect food security, water availability and ecosystems in Central Asia and beyond. The country stood ready to work with the international community to implement General Assembly resolution [77/158](#), initiated by Tajikistan and entitled "International Year of Glaciers' Presentation, 2025", and prepare for the International Conference on Glaciers, to be held in Tajikistan in 2025.

9. It was necessary to fully utilize the opportunities arising from the Water Action Decade and the Water Action Agenda, adopted at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, to promote the implementation of Goal 6 and other water-related Goals and targets. Tajikistan had jointly sponsored General Assembly resolution [77/334](#), in which the Assembly had decided, inter alia, to convene two conferences on water,

including one to be hosted in Dushanbe in 2028. The Government of Tajikistan also planned to host a third high-level international conference on the implementation of the Water Action Decade, in June 2024, in Dushanbe.

10. **Mr. Kattanga** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his Government continued to recognize the importance of quality education as a key enabler of sustainable development and to review its education training curriculum at all levels in order to reform education and provide graduates with the required skills and knowledge. To promote quality education at all levels, the Government was increasing the budget for the education sector and for the construction of facilities. It was also expanding access to loans for higher education. In addition, the Government provided free education from nursery to high school, which had increased enrolment.

11. Africa continued to face challenges resulting from the lack of adequate, affordable and reliable access to energy, which undermined sustainable economic growth, job creation and investment opportunities. A reliable energy supply was a fundamental catalyst for the structural transformation of economies, food security, digitalization and industrialization. The country aimed to triple its renewable energy output from existing levels by 2026. The main energy sources were currently natural gas, petroleum, geothermal power and hydropower.

12. Through conducive energy-related policies and incentives, the proportion of the population with access to electricity had increased by more than 10 per cent between 2018 and 2022. Furthermore, through its rural electrification programme, the Government anticipated that all villages in the mainland would be supplied with electricity by June 2024.

13. **Mr. Moriko** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that it was imperative to promote sustainable, resilient and accessible development. Côte d'Ivoire had achieved encouraging results from its implementation of the 2030 Agenda despite the devastating effects of climate change. To improve the population's resilience to those effects, the Government planned to improve the sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity, raise awareness about preserving the environment and achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. The measures would result in a reduction of 37 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions in the country's main greenhouse gas-emitting sectors by 2030.

14. With the acceleration of climate finance, his Government had begun developing tools to catalyse current measures, including the partnership plan for

implementing nationally determined contributions, the investment plan and the plan to operationalize article 6 of the Paris Agreement relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation policy. A new environmental code would also be adopted with a view to preserving the environment and human health.

15. At the fifteenth 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, his Government had urged its partners to continue their support for the Abidjan Legacy Programme. Côte d'Ivoire was prepared to participate actively in the forthcoming twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which should provide the opportunity to promote sustainable and ambitious solutions to contemporary challenges.

16. **Mr. Muhith** (Bangladesh) said that his country was taking a whole-of-society approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goal targets. Like the rest of the world, Bangladesh had faced setbacks in implementing the Goals as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and a series of subsequent cascading crises. Notwithstanding those challenges, the Government had reduced extreme poverty from more than 25 per cent in 2006 to almost 5 per cent in 2022 and was reforming the education system with a focus on critical thinking skills and on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2022, Bangladesh was ranked seventy-first out of 146 countries.

17. Much of the country's progress on the Goals was due to early policy intervention and investment. The Government had integrated the Goals into national plans, programmes and strategies, aligned a Goal action plan with its long-term economic plans and taken steps to facilitate and monitor progress. It was spending nearly \$1 billion a year on climate change adaptation and mitigation projects and was a global leader in disaster management and early warning systems. The country was committed to achieving universal health coverage by 2030, and its community clinic model had set an example for people-centric primary health care. Electricity was now supplied to all households, and social protection beneficiaries had increased from 13 per cent of the population to over 35 per cent between 2005 and 2022. The Government's flagship housing project was a model for addressing homelessness, providing sustainable housing and empowering communities.

18. Despite the progress made, gaps in policy coherence and coordination, limited awareness of the Goals at the subnational level and data availability challenges impeded Goal implementation, as did other constraints. Reform of the international financial architecture, fulfilment of official development assistance and climate commitments, stronger climate action and bold, ambitious and transformative actions could support developing countries in implementing the Goals.

19. **Ms. İstemil Aydil** (Türkiye) said that multiple and mutually reinforcing challenges had reversed much of the progress made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Second Committee must ensure the implementation 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) in order to get the Goals back on track. As hard-won development gains were at constant risk of being swept away by natural disasters, efforts should be focused on reducing and preventing such risks and on strengthening resilience and preparedness against future shocks. In 2022, Türkiye had introduced a draft resolution on promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda. Her delegation expected those initiatives to be reflected in the relevant draft resolutions before the Committee at the current session.

20. Türkiye would contribute to global climate action in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Notwithstanding the challenges that it faced, Türkiye had updated its nationally determined contribution and had announced 2053 as its target for net zero emissions. Adaptation to the effects of climate change was a crucial priority for the Mediterranean region. Türkiye had proposed the establishment of a regional activity centre on climate change and had offered to host the centre.

21. It was necessary to prioritize the needs small island developing States, in particular their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, and therefore critical to operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund. With insufficient progress on access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, there was also a need to focus on national green energy targets and the transition of developing countries to sustainable energy services. Türkiye continued to increase the share of renewable energy sources in its national energy mix and increase its energy efficiency while contributing to regional energy security.

22. Sand and dust storms were another challenge that require a concerted and collaborative response. Türkiye had participated in the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms in September 2023 and would continue to engage in the negotiations of the draft resolution on the matter.

23. Lastly, Goal 6, on clean water and sanitation for all, was off track. Türkiye wished for a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Water to be appointed from the global South and expected the Envoy to approach water issues in an impartial and independent manner.

24. **Mr. Alkins** (Guyana) said that his delegation hoped that the Second Committee could take action to get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track. While Guyana recognized the need to address structural impediments to global progress on the Goals, it was working to ensure that its resources were utilized sustainably to foster inclusive and equitable development for its people.

25. Forests had a key role to play in mitigating climate change effects, as outlined in the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use calling for the halting and reversal of forest loss by 2030. A carbon market mechanism could be an innovative climate financing stream. Guyana was aiming for a renewable energy share of 80 per cent by 2030. However, technology, capacity and financing were key for developing countries to build the necessary energy mix and renewable energy share.

26. As a country whose coast was six feet below sea level and home to most of its population, Guyana knew the effects of flooding and sea level rise. It echoed calls to better equip developing countries with multi-hazard early warning systems. Recognizing that water resources were critical for sustainable development and poverty eradication, Guyana called for the promotion of efficient water usage.

27. His delegation anticipated that, during the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in 2024, its development partners would join the discussion to ensure that a bold new 10-year programme of action for those States was agreed upon and adopted. Guyana reiterated its support for the multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States and the Bridgetown Initiative in the context of the efforts to restructure the international financial architecture to make it fit for purpose.

28. **Mr. Rosdi** (Malaysia) said that his country was addressing climate change challenges by developing disaster risk reduction strategies. As it was important to

invest in resilience to reduce the impact of disaster-related emergencies, his Government had allocated \$154 million to flood mitigation efforts in 2023. Its stormwater management and road tunnel infrastructure in Kuala Lumpur was a model for managing urban floods and easing traffic congestion.

29. For equitable economic development, Malaysia had implemented initiatives to advance the adoption of digital technologies and had established digital economy centres to provide Internet access in areas without connectivity. The recently launched National Circular Economy Council had the ultimate goal of eliminating single-use plastic use by 2030. The Government had introduced a national agrifood policy for the period 2021–2030 to strengthen the local agrifood industry and promote socioeconomic growth, inclusivity and resilience, with a focus on smallholder farmers and food producers.

30. As the world's second-largest palm oil producer, Malaysia played a leadership role in ensuring global food security and was committed to sustainable production through a certification scheme which comprehensively addressed the environmental, social and economic aspects of palm oil production. The country had introduced a national road map to transition from fossil fuels to a green economy and had unveiled energy projects with a view to reducing greenhouse emissions by 32 per cent and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

31. As a megadiverse country, Malaysia recognized the shared responsibility for conserving its rich biodiversity and had empowered various stakeholders to collaborate on biodiversity conservation. However, it was critically important to provide financial assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing nations.

32. **Mr. Mandla** (South Africa) said that the COVID-19 pandemic had created an opportunity for his country to pursue risk-informed development and to integrate disaster risk reduction principles and values into policies, strategies, frameworks and guidelines. South Africa had adopted a planning model aimed at fostering an integrated and district-based delivery approach in order to fast-track services to communities and ensure that municipalities were supported in carrying out their mandates. The country was committed to accelerating the implementation of risk-informed sustainable development through inclusive social and economic programmes.

33. The number of climate-related disasters had almost doubled in the past 20 years, with Africa suffering the greatest economic impact, and developing

countries needed an estimated \$70 billion annually for adaptation. South Africa therefore believed it crucial to fully implement the Sendai Framework and establish the necessary coherence between disaster risk reduction and poverty eradication in order to achieve sustainable development, including by providing access to finance. To speed up implementation of the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework, expanding regional, political and economic partnerships was critical and must be strengthened by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction.

34. **Mr. Uskov** (Russian Federation) said that sustainable development, environmental protection and climate change adaptation were of crucial importance to the Russian Federation. Increased international cooperation was needed to combat climate change for the benefit of current and future generations. A key determinant of success on climate change was ensuring that the action taken was underpinned by science, depoliticized and not subject to unfair competition.

35. His delegation underscored the commitment of the Russian Federation to the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius and affirmed that each State should have the right to choose the optimal means of protecting the environment and adapting to climate change. Key technologies needed to be developed to help in maintaining a favourable environment. The Russian Federation called for all representatives to work in a constructive and depoliticized manner at the forthcoming twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

36. Although climate change was a sustainable development issue, as reflected in Sustainable Development Goal 13, it was being considered in the Second Committee, which was tasked with addressing financial and economic issues. It was as counterproductive to link climate change to peace and security as it was to consider environmental issues in non-specialized United Nations bodies such as the Security Council.

37. The Russian Federation was committed to taking a balanced approach to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy sources for all. To that end, both conventional and renewable energy sources needed to be used sustainably. One priority was the development of cooperation on nuclear energy with due regard for the right of every State to set its own national policy in that area.

38. **Ms. Du Sault** (Monaco) said that her Government was implementing an ambitious policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with the aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, in accordance with the

trajectory outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Biomethane currently accounted for 10 per cent of the gas used in Monaco and, going forward, liquid fuels would have to be at least 30 per cent biogenic in origin. In addition, Monaco was reviewing its greenhouse gas reduction policy in order to increase its nationally determined contribution by 2025.

39. Recent natural disasters had underscored the importance of taking action to address the multidimensional planetary crisis. Early warning systems were essential for adapting to global warming, better anticipating extreme weather events and limiting their impact. For the foregoing reasons, Monaco had signed a four-year funding agreement under the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative to ensure that every human being on the planet would be covered by an early warning system within five years. As the largest donor, per capita, to the Green Climate Fund, Monaco had also pledged to contribute 3.3 million euros to the latter's second replenishment, for the period 2024–2027, representing a 10 per cent increase over its previous contribution. That contribution was a mark of her Government's confidence in the Fund's capacity to have a significant climate impact in the most vulnerable countries. Monaco had also renewed its support for the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants, to the tune of 500,000 euros for the period 2024–2025.

40. Through its national cooperation policy, Monaco was working to combat malnutrition and strengthen local food systems by promoting family farming, supporting small producers and bolstering the development of sustainable supply chains. At the same time, Monaco had launched a national energy transition pact aimed at changing consumption patterns and habits, creating new opportunities and supporting its population during the period of adaptation. Monaco was also striving to increase the share of renewable energies in its energy mix, in particular by exploiting its considerable potential for solar energy production.

41. It was critical to advance gender equality in order to effectively achieve sustainable and universal development. Through its international cooperation initiatives, Monaco supported the development of entrepreneurial programmes for women and young people by providing loans, training and professional support. In the absence of gender equality, resilient economic transition would not be possible.

42. **Mr. Welles** (Federated States of Micronesia) said that, in the lead-up to the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States to be

held in 2024, implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway) in his country and other Pacific small island developing States had shown mixed results, owing to capacity-building challenges. It was particularly difficult to assess progress in the many areas where data was unavailable or inadequate. While his Government was grateful for the implementation support provided by the United Nations system and the international community, further assistance was needed to build the capacities of its national statistics institution. Enduring partnerships should be fostered and coordination should be strengthened among all actors to avoid wasting limited resources. During the implementation period of the Samoa Pathway, small island States of the Pacific had fallen victim to significant climate events and natural disasters. Tropical cyclones were occurring more frequently and with greater intensity, leaving the low-lying islands at risk of severe destruction. Sustained efforts were needed to strengthen preparedness systems and build post-disaster response capacities.

43. There was a need to adopt an effective mandatory approach to reducing methane emissions, modelled on the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Federated States of Micronesia welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which was humanity's best hope for arresting and reversing alarming biodiversity losses and restoring harmony with nature for current and future generations. His delegation particularly appreciated the inclusion of target 3 of the Framework, which had laid the foundation for protecting at least 30 per cent of global oceans by 2030, and this country had been the first to sign the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity. In that context, the Federated States of Micronesia also underscored the importance of respecting and safeguarding the traditional territories and cultural spaces of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

44. **Mr. Xaiyavong** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that one of the factors slowing progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was the inadequate mobilization of resources to overcome current challenges. In that regard, his delegation echoed the call by the Secretary-General for a fundamental reform of the international financial architecture and global institutions. The proposed stimulus for the Goals would certainly help to provide long-term financing and increase contingency funding for countries in need. However, commitments made to that end had not yet been transformed into actionable measures for accelerating achievement of the Goals, and

the Lao People's Democratic Republic called for the effective implementation of financing frameworks.

45. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economic downturn had further constrained financial capacities and made it more challenging for developing countries to allocate the necessary resources to critical areas of sustainable development. His country continued to struggle with limited technical capacity and complex climate finance options, as well as the negative impacts of climate change.

46. In addition to the 17 Goals, the Lao People's Democratic Republic had committed to achieving an eighteenth Goal, namely to keep lives safe by removing unexploded ordnance. While most of the indicators of that Goal had advanced to varying degrees, unexploded ordnance remained a threat to national development and an obstacle to the realization of the other Goals.

47. The integration of the 2030 Agenda into national strategies clearly demonstrated his Government's unwavering dedication to its implementation. The Lao People's Democratic Republic was currently preparing its third voluntary national review to be presented at the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development. To that end, it needed to track and analyse data on selected Goals in order to identify needs and take limited resources into account. His Government had taken various measures, including the development of a financing strategy and an integrated national financing framework, aimed at building a more resilient financing architecture and capitalizing on opportunities to meet financing needs. Additional support and cooperation were needed from development partners to implement the priority actions of the framework. His delegation called on developed countries to fulfil their commitments to support countries in special situations to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, so that no country would be left behind.

48. **Mr. Prabowo** (Indonesia) said that the recent adoption by consensus of the political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit had been a remarkable milestone. However, with less than seven years remaining to achieve the Goals, progress was still lagging behind. Equal and inclusive cooperation should be strongly encouraged, and his delegation would continue to show leadership and facilitate collective actions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

49. Indonesia intended to address developmental challenges by accelerating sustainable development and undertaking orderly, just and affordable transitions in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Paris Agreement and

the Convention on Biological Diversity. It would be taking action to promote greater social justice, decent work and social protection for all, and would make every effort to remove barriers to education and improve the teaching and learning environment. His Government remained committed to providing the necessary means of implementation.

50. The financing gap and limited fiscal space were the most significant challenges facing the global South, and the mobilization and provision of adequate financing should be prioritized. To that end, developed countries should meet their official development assistance commitments and create innovative financing mechanisms, including through the use of blended finance. Technology transfers and capacity-building initiatives should be encouraged. A stronger collaborative approach was needed to create an enabling framework for sustainable resilience to current and future shocks.

51. Indonesia had implemented concrete measures and policies to foster resilience and inclusiveness, including by advancing digital transformation, strengthening digital infrastructure and promoting digital skills and literacy. Disaster management and disaster risk reduction had been improved through the empowerment of local authorities and community resilience programmes. An adapted social protection road map had been implemented, with a view to jointly addressing social protection, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management needs, in the context of climate-related and natural disasters.

52. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Eritrea) said that polarization and foreign intervention were forcing his country's resources to be diverted away from the Sustainable Development Goals. The unilateral coercive measures imposed on Eritrea were affecting all aspects of life, including basic services such as health and education. Eritrea was also among those countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, natural disasters and desertification. Despite all those obstacles, Eritrea had been able to make modest but steady progress towards achieving the Goals: it had invested in programmes to eradicate poverty and hunger; it had made education free all the way through the university level; it had implemented programmes to fight soil erosion and promote local production of organic fertilizer; it was harvesting rainwater and building dams and reservoirs of varying capacities as part of its transition from dry farming to mechanized irrigation; and it was introducing technology to agriculture at all levels, and working to install disaster prediction, mitigation and recovery systems.

53. Unfortunately, in a world of mistrust and destructive competition, there were many obstacles to development. The international community, and especially the advanced countries, needed to stop preaching, start paying due attention to cultural specificities and make good on their commitments in a spirit of partnership, trust, solidarity, peace and acceptance of others. Without an end to polarization, geopolitical conflict and hegemony, efforts towards achieving the Goals would come to naught.

54. **Mr. Milambo** (Zambia) said that there was a need to deepen international cooperation, uphold human rights and promote good governance in order to address the economic and social crises and the growing inequalities that threatened livelihoods and the realization of the Goals. The key messages of the political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit should serve as a guideline for accelerating efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. Zambia reiterated the call by Member States for a restructured international financial system and scaled up financing for development; for investment in human capital, including in the areas of education, skills development and youth empowerment; for increased investment in affordable, reliable, sustainable and equitable energy sources; and for a reversal of biodiversity loss and enhanced climate justice aimed at limiting global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius and preventing the most disastrous impacts of climate change.

55. At the current rate of progress in clean energy transitions, renewable energy sources would only account for a small fraction of global energy supplies in 2030, leaving many people without electricity and even more people dependent on polluting cooking fuels and technologies. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, continued reliance on wood, charcoal and animal waste for cooking and heating would exacerbate deforestation and biodiversity loss and weaken the capacity of the natural ecosystem to withstand climate change. Those negative trends were undermining environmental resilience, sustainability and progress towards achieving the Goals. His Government had recently enacted the Environmental Management (Amendment) Bill 2023, with a view to regulating solid waste management; managing waste electrical and electronic equipment; promoting the sustainable consumption of goods and services, a green economy, and cleaner production and technologies; domesticating the Montreal Protocol; and registering pesticides and toxic substances.

56. Zambia had aligned the development outcomes of its Eighth National Development Plan 2022–2026 with the Goals, as a mark of its commitment to the 2030

Agenda. Accordingly, it had fostered a whole-of-society and whole-of-Government approach to development, with an institutional framework for monitoring national development plans and the implementation of the national Vision 2030. His country had made significant progress in empowering the poorest and most vulnerable communities by increasing budget allocations to the Constituency Development Fund, embracing natural capital accounting in development planning and implementing universal health coverage programmes. Zambia supported the Secretary-General's proposal for a stimulus for the Goals and remained committed to working with development partners and the global community towards the accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

57. **Mr. Merabet** (Algeria) said that international cooperation to get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track should be focused on eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, developing education and capacity-building, ensuring access to quality health care, empowering women and girls and protecting the environment, in keeping with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Efforts should also be intensified to build data and statistical capacities in developing countries and to collect, analyse and disseminate relevant, reliable and disaggregated data. Moreover, countries should refrain from promulgating and applying unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that were not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

58. It was critical to reduce the financing gap for the Goals and to provide predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance to developing countries. The Secretary-General's proposed stimulus for the Goals would constitute a practical framework for addressing challenges and accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, the international financial architecture, international financial institutions and multilateral development banks could play a key role in promoting investment in sustainable economies.

59. Algeria had committed itself to incorporating the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda into all national strategies, programmes and plans. In that regard, his Government had adopted an urgent development programme that was being implemented in areas needing special attention, using a participatory approach involving local authorities, local representatives and civil society. The first phase of that programme had been completed in 2022 and had benefited approximately 7 million people. Over 36,000 projects had been financed, to the tune of \$3.5 billion, to provide clean water and sanitation, connect communities to electricity

networks, and provide access to health care, education and transportation. The second phase of the programme was under way, and would help to develop renewable energies, protect the environment, prevent disaster risk, advance digitization and combat corruption in all regions of the country. Algeria would continue its efforts to enhance regional solidarity, within the framework of the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, especially with respect to structural projects such as the trans-Saharan road and fibre optic cable and gas pipeline projects. Furthermore, his Government had allocated \$1 billion to the financing of development projects in African countries.

60. **Mr. Paulauskas** (Lithuania) said that the dumping of chemical weapons into the sea was a matter of global concern, given its potential to pose significant environmental and health risks. With the increasing use of sea transportation and high levels of economic activity, there were additional complexities in safeguarding the health of ocean and sea environments in areas where such weapons had been discarded. The issue therefore transcended environmental concerns, given its economic and social implications. Recent scientific studies had revealed cytogenic damage in fish species that were native to the Baltic Sea and living in close proximity to chemical munition dumpsites. Similarly, beachgoers in surrounding areas continued to report white phosphorus burns each year, and recent explosions along the Nord Stream gas pipelines had sparked concerns over possible damage, since the blasts had taken place in the vicinity of a historical chemical warfare dumping ground. Despite the foregoing, an increasing number of economic activities ranging from fishing to wind energy generation were taking place in open waters.

61. In 2010, Lithuania had led the efforts to adopt General Assembly resolution [65/149](#) on cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of the environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea. That milestone achievement had been the product of robust collaboration among Member States, the scientific community and civil society. The resolution, which had been subsequently reaffirmed in 2013, 2016, and 2019, sought to encourage nations and regional and international organizations to actively monitor the issue, share pertinent information, and strengthen efforts to raise awareness and foster a safer, more sustainable environment for all. The implementation of the resolution was also contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 14.

62. His delegation welcomed the possibility of establishing a database of locations and hazards

associated with waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, as well as options for the most suitable institutional framework for such a database. In view of the support expressed in 2013 for the creation of the database, the time had come for concrete action. His delegation would seek to ask the Secretary-General to submit a report identifying the most suitable format for the database, the possible way forward and the appropriate intergovernmental bodies within the United Nations system, for further consideration and implementation.

63. **Mr. Soumaré** (Mauritania) said that his Government had adopted a responsible approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and had mobilized all key actors to ensure that its commitments in that regard were met. The Government was determined to pursue policies aimed at fostering economic growth among the most vulnerable and had distributed free health insurance cards to 620,000 of the poorest households. In so doing, it hoped to facilitate access to basic services, including quality health services, and to increase the number of citizens benefiting from free health insurance to 1.8 million by 2024.

64. Mauritania needed to adopt a new development model to effectively integrate environmental issues into public policy, in order to ensure sustainable economic growth. The upcoming twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would provide an excellent opportunity to review the climate agenda. New perspectives had emerged in Mauritania, in the form of an extensive green hydrogen development programme that was currently being launched and that was expected to be a significant source of sustainable clean energy. The Summit of the Future scheduled to be held in 2024 should serve to highlight the need for global solidarity among current and future generations and draw attention to the development plight in Africa, and in the Sahel region in particular, given its long-term insecurity and climate-related challenges. International and financial partners had a moral obligation to help the States in the Sahel region to address those challenges.

65. **Ms. Abdala** (Mozambique) said that while encouraging progress had been made in implementing the Sendai Framework, efforts at the local level remained insufficient, financing was inadequate and the focus was still being placed on disaster response, instead of prevention and preparedness. As a result, the international community was not yet on track to achieve the expected outcomes of the Sendai Framework by 2030.

66. Her Government attached great importance to disaster risk reduction, which had been integrated as a cross-cutting issue into the strategic plans of sectors such as agriculture, food security and nutrition. Since the adoption of the Sendai Declaration, Mozambique had taken major steps to improve and update its legal and institutional framework, including by establishing a national institute for disaster risk reduction, which was responsible for coordinating national action. An early warning system strategy had been devised to address the impact of floods and cyclones, with a view to reducing the vulnerability of communities, the economy and infrastructure and increasing forecast and response capacities by 2024.

67. At the regional level, her Government was working with the Southern African Development Community to operationalize the Community's Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre, which was located in Mozambique. The Centre would enhance coordination in terms of regional disaster risk preparedness, response and early recovery, and assist member States affected by disasters. Mozambique echoed the call by Africa, developing countries and those vulnerable to climate change for increased funding for climate adaptation and resilience, including through the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund. At the midpoint of the Sendai Framework, it was imperative to reinforce collective action for strengthening preparedness, improving response capacity and increasing community resilience.

68. **Mr. Shiferaw** (Ethiopia) said that the African continent, and the Horn of Africa in particular, continued to grapple with the adverse effects of climate change, including severe droughts and extreme weather events, which further threatened food security, water availability and energy resources. Addressing those challenges would require a complete shift in the international approach to the sustainable development financing gap, climate financing, high debt burdens, technology transfers and capacity-building.

69. Ethiopia was actively integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into development plan for the period 2021–2030 and taking critical steps towards achieving prosperity for all. It was committed to reducing climate vulnerability through the Green Legacy initiative, which would seek to plant 50 billion seedlings by 2050. His Government had also implemented an agricultural strategy to combat desertification by restoring millions of hectares of degraded land and soil, with the aim of achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030. The issues of recurrent droughts and food insecurity were being addressed through a proactive and comprehensive national disaster

risk management policy and strategy that was aligned with continental and global frameworks. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's selection of Ethiopia to participate in the Early Warnings for All initiative, under which it would receive technical assistance over the period 2023–2027.

70. Ethiopia generated most of its electricity from renewable sources, primarily hydropower. It had invested heavily in the development of energy infrastructure in order to meet growing domestic electricity demands and enhance regional energy interconnections. Considerable progress had been made, with 48 per cent of the population having access to electricity in 2022, and his Government remained committed to achieving 100 per cent electricity access by 2030. However, energy access remained insufficient and climate change-induced droughts continued to undermine development gains. Furthermore, limited financial resources posed a challenge for further investment in the development of renewable energy infrastructure. Development partners should continue to support Ethiopia in the mobilization of resources for the full and swift implementation of international agreements. Global cooperation should be revitalized to combat the adverse impacts of climate change, and the upcoming twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should serve as a historical opportunity to take bold actions.

71. **Ms. Al Haddabi** (Oman) said that her country's Oman Vision 2040 plan was in line with the 2030 Agenda. Oman had created a national committee composed of representatives from government, the private sector and civil society to follow up implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Education was a priority, and standards and incentives had been adopted to maintain teacher quality. Oman was on track to eradicate illiteracy by 2024. Its "Better Climate for a Green Future" initiative had set a target of greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050 and over \$190 billion had been invested in clean energy. Oman aimed to reduce its use of ozone-depleting substances to levels below those required by the Montreal Protocol.

72. Economic diversification and fiscal sustainability were priorities of Oman Vision 2040. Progress made in those areas was reflected in the Sultanate's rising global credit rating, which would help attract foreign investment. The social protection system in Oman covered all classes of society, including women, children, widows, orphans, older persons, persons with disabilities and people with limited incomes. Oman had acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

73. **Mr. Naftaly** (Israel) said that the unprecedented terror attack suffered by his country on 7 October 2023 had resulted in the murder of unfathomable numbers of people. Hamas terrorists had fired thousands of rockets into Israel and had carried out a barbaric pogrom of unparalleled magnitude, killing innocent civilians, including Holocaust survivors, or taking them back to Gaza.

74. It had been 17 years since his country had unilaterally withdrawn from Gaza and Hamas had come to power. Although the international community had sought to rehabilitate Gaza with aid, funds had been used for terror, not sustainable development, turning the territory into a war machine. Hamas had a total disregard for the Sustainable Development Goals. Instead of channelling funds for welfare, job creation and social protection to eradicate poverty, it had built tunnels, rocket launch pads and missile manufacturing sites. Instead of building sustainable food systems and investing in agriculture to eliminate hunger, it had let its people starve while financing its capacity to kill Israelis. When Hamas leaders hid beneath hospitals or fired missiles from them, they were not supporting the health and well-being of citizens but using them as human shields. In schools, textbooks funded by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East did not support quality education but taught children to die as martyrs by killing Jews. The testimonies of Israeli women raped by Hamas terrorists demonstrated the organization's abuse of women and its use of sexual and gender-based violence, not its promotion of gender equality. Hamas was building a terror infrastructure by using technological innovation for long-range rockets.

75. Any comparison between a democratic State subject to international law and a terror organization was unacceptable. Those not willing to understanding what had happened or call out the aggressors were distorting reality and strengthening the terrorists by giving them official standing in the United Nations and providing them with fuel to continue their crimes and violence. Neutrality sometimes amounted to complacency and was a huge moral failing. Hamas was a genocidal, jihadist terror organization no different from Da'esh or Al-Qaida, seeking not development or dialogue but the annihilation of the Jewish State. It had no right to development while brutally killing civilians.

76. **Mr. Tun** (Myanmar) said that, although progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals had stagnated generally, the situation in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, had been compounded by deepening development gaps, economic injustices, donor fatigue and climate

vulnerabilities. His country supported the Secretary-General's call for a rescue plan for people and the planet, including a stimulus package, localization of the Goals and investments in peace, and affirmed the paramount importance of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and the role of sustainable peace in achieving the Goals.

77. His country's score on the Sustainable Development Goals Index had been rising until 2021, but the illegal military coup and the atrocities committed by the military junta had reversed hard-earned gains, with progress limited for 39 per cent of indicators and regressing for 42 per cent. The junta's campaign of violence was characterized by air strikes against the civilian population, brutal mass killings during ground operations and widespread, systemic burning of civilian homes and properties. Taught in bunkers and makeshift camps because of aerial attacks and the shelling of schools and learning centres, children were essentially deprived of education rights and opportunities. In addition, attacks on health-care workers, clinics and hospitals and the deliberate blocking of aid hampered access to health and well-being services. Half of the population lived below the national poverty line, 18 million needed humanitarian assistance and nearly 2 million were internally displaced.

78. The Government was nevertheless working with stakeholders to provide basic health-care, education and humanitarian services, having resumed routine immunizations in some areas and given disaster management training and life-saving aid and trauma care after Cyclone Mocha. However, sustainable development required peace and stability as well as humanitarian and technological assistance from developed countries. The military junta was the root cause of the crippling social, economic, political and humanitarian crisis in the country. It had no legitimacy, capacity or political will to govern or improve the lives and well-being of citizens. The international community must therefore provide effective, tangible and meaningful support to end the military dictatorship and build a federal democratic union.

79. **Mr. Al Shehri** (Saudi Arabia) said that the preceding two years had only added to the obstacles facing the 2030 Agenda. The 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit had demonstrated the genuine desire of Member States to accelerate progress on the Goals. The Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 plan sought to diversify the economy and promote non-oil sources of income, including, inter alia, in the health, tourism and recreation sectors. The plan paid particular attention to accelerating the digital transformation.

80. Over the years, Saudi Arabia had contributed over \$87 billion to poverty alleviation, spread over some 5,000 projects in 166 countries. The Kingdom had also launched initiatives to encourage green finance in the private sector. Saudi Arabia supported a gradual and responsible transition to clean low-carbon energy systems, taking into account varying national and regional circumstances. It continued to combat the effects of climate change and protect the environment through the Saudi Green Initiative and the Middle East Green Initiative, and to support a circular carbon economy that would achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. The Kingdom had recently announced plans to establish a global water organization to be headquartered in Riyadh.

81. **Mr. Henzel** (United States of America) said that his country unequivocally condemned the attack on Israel by Hamas militants. Terrorism was never justified, and Israel had the right to defend itself and its people in the face of unjustified attacks. The assault had serious consequences for sustainable development efforts, with the region facing two options: greater integration and stability to ensure that Israelis and Palestinians resolved their differences, or a path of terror that destroyed lives, including Palestinian lives.

82. More broadly, his country was firmly committed to the Sustainable Development Goals, having invested more than \$100 billion since 2021 to boost development progress, promote food security, expand education, strengthen health-care systems and fight disease. It was not possible to implement the 2030 Agenda by focusing on only a few Goals and ignoring those related to human rights and environmental sustainability. Gender equality, for instance, was inexorably linked to economic growth, education and reduced inequalities. Ending hunger was another example of the integrated nature of the Goals, as food security was fundamental to ending poverty, supporting healthy populations and advancing quality education, and his country had committed \$17.5 billion to addressing food insecurity since 2021. Another linchpin was peace, justice and strong institutions, and the Goals could also not be achieved without tackling the climate crisis. The Inflation Reduction Act represented his country's strongest ever climate action, sending an unequivocal signal of its commitment to meet the temperature target of the Paris Agreement. Multilateral partnerships were vital for advancing the Goals.

83. **Ms. Natale** (Canada) said that her country unequivocally condemned the terror attacks against Israeli citizens by Hamas. Canada reaffirmed its solidarity with Israel and supported the latter's right to defend itself under international law. It extended its

condolences to those affected, including the families of those abducted, and called for the immediate and unconditional release of hostages.

84. Held at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals Summit had been a pivotal moment to reinforce commitments to the Goals. It was important to protect and advance the foundations of the 2030 Agenda, underpinned by gender equality and respect for human rights, and to respond to the current compounding crises, including those related to the environment and access to finance.

85. The draft resolutions to be negotiated by the Committee on the environment and climate change should advance recent intergovernmental agreements and frameworks, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement and subsequent decisions and outcomes of Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Committee should ensure that draft resolutions were relevant and action-oriented rather than undertaking parallel discussions or creating new draft resolutions on a subset of issues or regional initiatives.

86. **Mr. Larsen** (Australia) said that his country unequivocally condemned the attacks on Israel by Hamas, including indiscriminate rocket fire, targeting of civilians and hostage-taking. Hamas bore full responsibility for such distressing and egregious acts, and must release all hostages immediately and unconditionally. Israel had a right to defend itself and, as hostilities continued, Australia called on all parties to protect civilian lives and uphold the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and the rules-based order.

87. During the current session, members of the Committee should work together to deliver meaningful outcomes, agreed by consensus, that accelerated the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Australia supported robust efforts to respond effectively to the devastating impact of climate change, such as fulfilling commitments under the Paris Agreement and accelerating mitigation and adaptation efforts, while also promoting biodiversity, environmental protection and disaster risk reduction. Australia would work closely with countries in special situations to ensure that the international community was better positioned to respond to their specific challenges. It welcomed the final report of the High-level Panel on the Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index for Small Island Developing States – the culmination of 30 years of advocacy – and looked forward to its endorsement

and operationalization. Australia would also champion inclusion by promoting the role of Indigenous Peoples in sustainable development and ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

88. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that sustainable development had suffered a major setback as result of ongoing crises that had created economic and financial challenges, and that practical and tangible measures should be adopted to put the Sustainable Development Goals back on track. It had been recognized in the 2030 Agenda that sustainable development was not possible without peace and that measures must be taken in accordance with international law to remove obstacles preventing the realization of the right to self-determination for peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation. It was regrettable that the State of Palestine seemed likely to be left behind if entrenched Israeli settler occupation continued to hamper its development.

89. Despite the challenges, however, the State of Palestine was fully committed to the 2030 Agenda, having established government mechanisms to support its implementation and having aligned national and cross-sectoral strategies with the Goals. Its second voluntary national review would be presented in 2024. Ending the occupation, enabling Palestinians' right to self-determination and establishing an independent Palestinian State were the conditions necessary for it to fulfil its obligations and pledges with regard to the 2030 Agenda. The international community must shoulder its responsibilities in accordance with international law and take measures to end the occupation since 1967 and unleash the full potential of the State of Palestine to achieve sustainable development.

90. It was regrettable that some delegations had exploited the discussion in the Committee to deliver provocative statements on matters unrelated to the agenda item. Such manoeuvres created further toxicity and, in some cases, amounted to blatant incitement.

91. Archbishop Caccia (Observer for the Holy See) said that a concerted effort was needed by the international community to pursue a people-centred sustainable development model oriented towards the common good. Poverty was an affront to human dignity, reflecting a lack not just of financial resources, but also of basic needs such as housing, electricity, safe drinking water and sanitation, health care and education, which prevented millions of people from flourishing.

92. Of particular concern was the lack of access to education, the primary vehicle of integral human development, which provided the tools necessary for spiritual, moral and social growth and helped to break

the vicious cycle of poverty and lack of opportunity. Everyone had a right to education. It was a fundamental enabler of sustainable development, ensuring the acquisition of the knowledge and skills necessary to exploit opportunities and participate fully in society. Investment in education should begin with support for the family, the fundamental unit of society. Parents were irreplaceable as primary educators and had the right and responsibility to ensure that their children received an adequate and integral education that promoted their well-being. States and public authorities should guarantee that right. Investment was vital but should not reduce education to a commodity, or learners to clients and consumers. The education model needed not only to focus on the transmission and accumulation of knowledge, but also to place humans and human dignity at the centre. Its ultimate purpose was to enable all people to realize their full potential and assimilate fundamental values and virtues.

93. Education could contribute to ending exclusion and fostering human fraternity, including by promoting a culture of care for the planet. A crucial aspect of education for sustainable development was to educate younger generations in sustainable production and consumption patterns, generate new models of economic growth and protect the planet from exploitation. Through its network of Catholic schools, universities and other educational institutions, the Holy See would continue to ensure that everyone had access to quality education that was consonant with human dignity and the common vocation to fraternity.

94. **Mr. Biya** (Observer for the International Renewable Energy Agency) said that energy was key to achieving sustainable development, and that energy access played a catalytic role for the entire 2030 Agenda. In 2021, 675 million people, mostly in the least developed countries and sub-Saharan Africa, had lacked access to electricity and 2.3 billion had not had access to clean cooking fuels or technology. Just, inclusive and equitable energy transitions must be accelerated, and without deep decarbonization to achieve net-zero targets by 2050, the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement would be out of reach.

95. Renewable energy deployment, however, was lagging, especially in transport, industry, heating and cooling, and further improvements in global energy efficiency were needed. Global growth in the share of renewables in total final energy consumption was slow, having reached 19.1 per cent in 2020, and the rate of improvement in primary energy intensity had fallen to 0.6 per cent in 2020, making it the worst year for energy intensity investment since 2008. Although investment in renewable energy had reached a high of \$0.5 trillion

globally in 2022, it was insufficient to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 or to improve welfare and livelihoods. Investments totalling \$0.5 billion in off-grid renewable energy in 2021 were far short of the \$15 billion required annually to achieve universal energy access. International public financial flows in support of clean energy in developing countries had decreased in recent years, to \$10.8 billion in 2020, which was 35 per cent less than the average for the previous decade.

96. The disparity in financing received by developed and developing countries had more than doubled in the past six years, highlighting the need for international collaboration and an urgent boost in the flow of public funds from developed to developing countries. The Agency worked with its 170 member countries to inform policymaking and spur action on the ground. In the latest edition of its annual report, *World Energy Transitions Outlook 2023: 1.5°C Pathway*, the Agency highlighted the importance of investing in physical infrastructure, comprehensive policy and regulatory frameworks and a well-skilled workforce to limit the rise in global temperatures. It also welcomed the adoption of the International Day of Clean Energy on 26 January, the anniversary of the Agency's founding.

97. **Ms. Aultman** (Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) said that over 200 climate- and weather-related cross-border disasters had been recorded in the first half of 2023, affecting more than 75 million people while compounding other crises and disproportionately hurting developing countries that had a lower preparedness and response capacity and were most at risk. With most Governments unprepared for the next disasters, the Federation had developed recommendations for disaster risk reduction measures.

98. First, disaster risk laws, policies and plans must be prioritized at all levels to identify roles, responsibilities and coordination mechanisms before, during and after crises. The Federation had facilitated the development of such laws in 95 countries and called for domestic legal frameworks to be further strengthened. It also welcomed discussions in the Sixth Committee on an international legal framework for the protection of persons in the event of disasters.

99. Second, investments in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation should be scaled up, including through innovative partnerships and financing mechanisms. The deadliest and costliest disasters of the past two decades had been forecast, and early warning systems saved lives and assets worth 10 times their cost. The Federation had helped to develop new partnership

models that were complementary and cross-sectoral and supported capacity-building at the local level. For example, the Water at the Heart of Climate Action programme supported water management and the scaling up of early warning and early action systems along the Nile River Basin and should be replicated elsewhere. The Federation was also boosting its Disaster Response Emergency Fund with an additional insurance mechanism. If existing contributions to the Fund were exhausted in particularly hazardous years, the mechanism would provide a contingency financing layer that enabled funds to be distributed before and after disasters.

100. **Mr. Bredel** (Observer for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that global demand for resources and energy continued to grow, and that innovative solutions and technologies capable of supporting transformational change and climate action were required. As the specialized agency mandated to advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO promoted policy coherence through its programmes, unlocked investments for technology adoption and built local skills, especially for women and young people.

101. Through its Private Finance Advisory Network, UNIDO had helped climate and clean energy projects to leverage more than \$2 billion in financing. It had coordinated an industrial deep decarbonization initiative co-led by India and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and was harmonizing standards for hard-to-abate sectors such as steel and cement. In recent months, UNIDO had worked with partners such as Germany on a technical assistance facility to support industrial decarbonization in developing countries, which would be launched at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNIDO was creating tools and guidelines to facilitate the adoption of green hydrogen and promote clean, carbon-neutral industries, and would serve as the coordinator of the International Hydrogen Trade Forum, co-led by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Arab Emirates. In order to maximize the development impact and promote a just energy transition, UNIDO also assisted developing countries in creating local green hydrogen clusters to power productive capacities and build resilient value chains. Lastly, with preparations under way for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, UNIDO was working with the Small Island Developing States Dock and the private sector to promote the Global Ocean Energy Alliance.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

102. **Mr. Al-Khalidi** (Iraq) said that his delegation wished to clarify an issue that had been raised during the previous day's meeting. Iraq complied fully with all Security Council resolutions and signed agreements. It pursued a balanced foreign policy based on cooperation and mutual understanding, and had put forward numerous initiatives to promote partnerships for sustainable development. His delegation called on Member States to refrain from bringing up matters that were extraneous to the work of the Committee. To introduce topics unrelated to the development agenda was to divert attention from the search for solutions to the urgent economic and financial challenges faced by developing countries.

103. **Ms. Bayramlin-Hamidova** (Azerbaijan) said that it was regrettable that the representative of Armenia had chosen to politicize the discussions in the Committee and to disseminate misinformation about Azerbaijan. The so-called military aggression had in fact 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. They had lasted less than 24 hours and had targeted legitimate military objects. Even the Prime Minister of Armenia had admitted publicly that rumours about mass casualties among the civilian population had been untrue and that there had been no direct threat to the civilian population in the Karabakh region. 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.

104. Claims of ethnic cleansing were not supported by evidence. Hundreds of residents had stated publicly that they had not been forced to leave and that there had been no inappropriate behaviour against them, as confirmed by the Russian peacekeeping contingent and international organizations in Armenia. Some had left the region based on personal choices, following decades of anti-Azerbaijani propaganda by Armenia. Azerbaijan, meanwhile, was committed to ensuring appropriate conditions for them to stay and reintegrate.

105. Azerbaijan was a multi-ethnic, multi-religious country in which different groups lived side by side, enjoying rights that were safeguarded under international law. Ethnic Armenians in the Karabakh region were welcome to be part of that multicultural model.

106. **Mr. Naftaly** (Israel) said that representatives of the Palestinian Authority had hijacked every possible issue to serve their own narrow agenda. It was now evident that they were celebrating carnage, barbarism and savagery. Their criticism of Israel meant that they supported armed terrorists breaking into homes and massacring or abducting people. It meant that they were monsters. It was no longer possible, however, to listen to their lies. His delegation had long strived for peace, seeking to share prosperity and live peacefully side by side, but for what had happened there would be no forgiveness.

107. **Ms. Babikyan** (Armenia) said that the so-called counter-terrorism measures conducted by Azerbaijan were in fact well-planned, premeditated and largely military operations aimed at forcing Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians to leave their homeland. Any claims that the mass exodus had been voluntary were untrue, as more than 100,000 people had left under heavy artillery shelling. The actions by Azerbaijan had amounted to ethnic cleansing, and Armenia would continue to appeal to the United Nations and other international actors to protect the Nagorno-Karabakh people and uphold the norms of international law, the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the values of peace and humanity.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.