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Second Committee**Summary record of the 18th meeting**

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Chair: Mr. Amorín (Uruguay)
later: Mr. Cimino (Vice-Chair) (Italy)

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

Agenda item 21: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) (*continued*) (A/78/239)

(b) Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/78/238)

Agenda item 23: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*)

(a) Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*) (A/78/218, A/78/233 and A/78/74-E/2023/67)

(b) Natural plant fibres and sustainable development (*continued*) (A/78/218)

1. **Ms. Martins** (Timor-Leste) said that Timor-Leste was committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supporting the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure that every Timorese had access to nutritious food. Agriculture, including fisheries and forestry, was the backbone of the national economy. Timor-Leste was also developing blue economy policies to harvest the potential of the ocean for economic growth and ensure the sustainable use of marine resources. A broad range of agriculture and ocean-related activities and policies had been developed and implemented over the years. Both sectors had great potential for job creation and revenue generation to improve livelihoods, economic growth, food security and nutrition, and to make progress with the overall achievement of Goals. Despite the challenges it was facing, Timor-Leste continued to prioritize the development of agriculture and fisheries sectors. The Government promoted climate-proofing investments and climate adaptation in agriculture development to ensure environmental sustainability and resilience while restoring the balance of the ecosystem.

2. The national consolidated action plan of Timor-Leste for nutrition and food security and the national action plan for a hunger and malnutrition free Timor-Leste provided school feeding programmes and improved the social protection system for vulnerable groups. Furthermore, his country's strategic plan for 2021–2025 laid out four mutually reinforcing strategic objectives: (a) to sustainably increase production of food crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry and industrial crops; (b) to improve value addition and access to domestic and export markets; (c) to enhance sustainable natural resources management, utilization and

conservation; and (d) to enhance good governance and institutional management across the agriculture sector.

3. Eradicating poverty was a fundamental prerequisite for achieving all the Goals, as it underpinned progress across the social, economic and environmental dimensions. Investment was required across the elements of the food system in order to improve the linkages between food production, processing and marketing and to ensure that quality and affordable nutritious food was available to all while addressing the country's economic and environmental vulnerability. In that regard, Timor-Leste was in the process of finalizing its accession to the World Trade Organization.

4. International cooperation, including support from developing partners in providing official development assistance (ODA), climate finance, expertise and technology sharing under the provisions of the Paris Agreement and Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, would be paramount for achieving the Goals.

5. **Mr. Dioum** (Senegal) said that new strategies were needed to eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, including through regional initiatives such as the African Emergency Food Production Facility, which had been launched by the African Development Bank to bolster food security, nutrition and resilience throughout Africa. At the national level, the Government of Senegal had established programmes to support agriculture and ultimately achieve food self-sufficiency. Senegal was also engaged in efforts to improve innovation and adaptation, including through the work of the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research on testing high-yield wheat crops. However, achieving food self-sufficiency would require greater investment in agriculture, which was the goal of the second Dakar Summit on Agriculture and Agribusiness held in January 2023. The Summit aimed to bring about a paradigm shift so that Africa could produce by itself, for itself and for the world.

6. To strengthen its own food security, the Government of Senegal had invested in social spending on vulnerable groups. It had also launched a national programme of monetary transfers to assist almost 400,000 household in protecting vulnerable groups and combating extreme poverty. Increased agriculture financing and insurance would also be crucial in allowing smallholders and family farmers to improve their production. Other key issues to address included efforts to ensure food sustainability, maintain open and

transparent trade in fertilizers and combat malnutrition through a balanced diet.

7. **Archbishop Caccia** (Observer for the Holy See) said that eradicating poverty remained the greatest challenge faced by humankind. The true extent of the challenge became evident only when poverty was measured with comprehensive criteria that went beyond income and included non-monetary indicators, such as a lack of access to education, safe, nutritious and sufficient food, safe drinking water and sanitation, energy and electricity.

8. Efforts to eradicate poverty should first recognize it as a complex reality that manifested itself in all dimensions of human life. That called for an integrated approach to address the deprivations faced by millions of people at the educational, social, political, cultural and spiritual levels. In that regard, education was an effective antidote to poverty. Ensuring access to quality education was essential to provide girls and boys not only with the skills that would enable them to contribute to society and access the labour market, but also with the spiritual goods that helped them grow and flourish as persons. That, in turn, enabled them to become dignified agents of their own destiny who could develop their full potential.

9. Adequate social protection, in particular maternity and family benefits, had also proven to be highly effective in reducing poverty worldwide and in preventing people who were already in situations of economic vulnerability from falling further into the poverty trap. Social policies aimed at a better income distribution depended on an integral promotion of the poor that went beyond a simple welfare mentality. That was possible only when people had access to sustainable livelihoods to support themselves and their families.

10. Hunger and malnutrition generated even greater poverty. The health consequences of inadequate food quantity and quality affected peoples' ability to learn and work. The paradox was that while enough food was produced to feed everyone, hunger and starvation remained the daily reality for far too many. Beyond putting an end to food being discarded, wasted or over-consumed, it was important to ensure that food was sustainably produced and fairly distributed.

11. In short, a new mindset was required. Policies must be designed and implemented that placed the human person at the centre and ensured equitable access to the basic goods, resources and opportunities. Only through concrete measures that ensured the inclusion of the excluded could the hundreds of millions of people who were still deprived of the basic necessities of life,

including food, medical care and education, be lifted out of poverty and achieve integral human development.

12. **Ms. Miljkovicova** (Observer for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that, halfway to the 2030 deadline, the sobering reality was that the Sustainable Development Goals were far off track. Overlapping global crises had pushed additional tens of millions of people into poverty, with an estimated 670 million living in extreme poverty, and there were worsening trends in hunger and food insecurity. With every additional 1 percent increase in food prices, nearly 10 million people were pushed into extreme poverty. It was clear that multidimensional approaches were needed.

13. UNIDO supported national poverty alleviation and food security efforts through inclusive and sustainable industrialization. History had shown that sustainable industrialization was the key for creating decent jobs, addressing poverty and supporting sustained economic growth. Very few countries had achieved developed country status without undergoing a sound process of industrialization.

14. Local productive capacities had also proven vital for socioeconomic resilience to external shocks. Through policy advice and technical projects, UNIDO helped developing countries to build national capacities and local skills, to participate in regional and global value chains and to access new markets. Its programmes supported countries in adopting modern, integrated industrial policies and increasing public and private investments in sustainable industry, including the agroindustry. UNIDO also helped countries to establish integrated agrofood parks, which offered modern infrastructure and support services to companies and farmers. They also provided opportunities for skills training and helped to attract domestic and foreign investment and to connect to markets. Agrifood parks enhanced food security, but they also generated new employment in rural areas, where 80 percent of the extreme poor lived. UNIDO had already supported the establishment of such parks in several countries, including Ethiopia and Senegal, and was working with its partners to establish similar parks elsewhere.

15. UNIDO worked to create jobs for youth in the agricultural sector through the Opportunities for Youth in Africa programme, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the African Union and other partners. On a global scale, UNIDO was a proud partner of the high-impact initiative on food system transformation, launched during the Sustainable Development Goals Acceleration Day. Together with FAO, UNIDO had launched the

Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator to facilitate partnerships and private sector investments in the development of key food value chains. Through that programme, it supported countries, particularly the least developed countries, in making food systems more inclusive, sustainable and resilient.

16. It was important to build on the momentum of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to collectively deliver on the promises made. Eradicating poverty and creating a world without hunger was a complex task that needed coordinated, integrated solutions and, most of all, bold actions. UNIDO stood ready to further step up cooperation with Member States, sister agencies and other partners to advance the Goals.

Agenda item 22: Operational activities for development

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/78/72-E/2023/59 and A/78/72/Add.1-E/2023/59/Add.1)

(b) South-South cooperation for development (A/78/290 and A/78/39)

17. **Mr. Pierre** (Director ad interim of the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system” (A/78/72 and A/78/72/Add.1), said that the report showed how United Nations development system reforms had provided better support for national action and faster progress towards sustainable, inclusive development.

18. All data indicated that investments in the repositioning of the United Nations development system were delivering results. Government feedback confirmed the enhanced performance of United Nations country teams, led by resident coordinators, as the frontline of that delivery: 88 per cent of host Governments had agreed that resident coordinators provided effective and strategic leadership in support of their national plans and priorities; 94 per cent of host Governments had agreed that United Nations country team activities reflected the content of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks; and 93 per cent of countries surveyed had said the activities of the United Nations were closely aligned with their needs and priorities, a marked improvement compared to a few years earlier. Nearly 80 per cent of respondents had agreed that country teams were more focused on common results than before the

reforms, with all small island developing States agreeing that collaboration between United Nations entities had improved since the reforms.

19. The regional United Nations development system, through regional collaborative platforms, was providing better expertise to United Nations country teams and addressing common cross-border development issues. The system had provided continued support to countries on poverty eradication, gender equality, education, science, technology and innovation, to help fulfil the promise to leave no one behind. Thanks to the repositioning, there was now enhanced cooperation and coherence across development efforts, humanitarian action and peacebuilding. Between 90 and 95 per cent of host countries saw United Nations entities as working in close collaboration across those pillars. However, greater support was still needed to enhance access to affordable long-term financing to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, including through integrated national financing frameworks. More progress was also needed in the system-wide efforts to mainstream climate and environment approaches, to achieve gender parity at all levels and to fully implement system-wide plans for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples.

20. The United Nations development system continued to deliver increased transparency and accountability. In addition to annual country, regional and global reports in 2023, the resident coordinator system results framework had published its first results as an annex to the report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group. The Chair of the Group had also shared with the presidents of the governing bodies a checklist of United Nations development system reforms to help harmonize efforts and actions. The repositioning had generated efficiencies of over \$405 million in 2022, which represented a 47 per cent increase from 2021 efficiencies.

21. However, there was a continued need for adequate, predictable and flexible funding for the United Nations development system. Progress on meeting the commitments of the funding compact remained mixed. Core funding had increased, but the United Nations development system remained heavily dependent on a few donors. Global funds, such as the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, had significant funding gaps. Adequate and sustainable funding was critical for the resident coordinator system, but the system had had a funding gap of \$85 million in 2022. Closing that gap was an absolute necessity for the development system to function at full strength. The Secretary-General had urged Member States to reconsider the alternative

funding models put forward in the review of the resident coordinator system in 2021.

22. The recent Sustainable Development Goals Summit had given a strong impetus to undertake the transformative actions needed to overcome multiple crises and accelerate progress towards achieving the Goals. In the political declaration adopted at the Summit, Member States had supported the central role of the United Nations in international development cooperation and had committed to fully support the United Nations development system. With the Committee's leadership and guidance, the system was determined to offer the best possible support to countries in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

23. **Ms. Wang** (Trust Fund Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the State of South-South cooperation (A/78/290), said that the report drew on findings from responses to a survey conducted by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation among United Nations entities and to quadrennial comprehensive policy review surveys conducted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs among Member States. The report outlined development compacts, global development analysis and new development opportunities in South-South and triangular cooperation. It showed that during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic South-South and triangular cooperation had enabled developing countries to obtain vaccines, necessary medications and personal protective equipment and to enhance their productive capacities for resilience.

24. However, international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships, needed to be revitalized to mobilize resources and harness science, technology and innovation to acceleration progress towards a strong recovery, poverty eradication and sustainable development. In 2022, a total of 24 resolutions of the Second Committee had incorporated South-South and triangular cooperation as an important modality for delivering results.

25. The report highlighted, among other issues, that most developing countries were already at high risk of debt distress. There was an urgent need to assist developing countries in achieving long-term debt sustainability thorough coordinated policies.

26. Digitization in the global South remained characterized by large imbalances, particularly in the least developed countries, and a wide gender gap also existed in the digital divide. There was a great potential to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation in

enhancing digital connectivity and helping to close digital divides.

27. Good progress was being made in the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development. However, while triangular cooperation was growing, more efforts and resources were required to tap into its full potential. Of the 115 United Nations country teams that had responded to surveys, 70 per cent had indicated that the main challenges in providing support to South-South and triangular cooperation was a lack of dedicated resources and capacity.

28. The report provided important recommendations to strengthen support for South-South and triangular cooperation, including encouraging Member States, regional development banks and the United Nations development system to increase financial resources. In the report, the Secretary-General had commended the development of an initial conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation and had recommended the use of gender markers and indicators to strengthen the mainstreaming of gender considerations into South-South cooperation initiatives. He had also urged the United Nations development system to support Member States in ensuring a successful outcome of the third South Summit in January 2024.

29. **Mr. Guevara Rodríguez** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the path towards sustainable development was under serious threat. Developing countries continued to face multiple challenges that limited their capacity for economic recovery. It was necessary, as a matter of urgency, for delegations to work on strengthening multilateralism and reaffirming their commitments to leave no one behind through actions. During the current cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, despite some advances, development activities had not received the same attention and resources from the international community as other matters. For example, in 2021, spending on development activities had reached \$20 billion for the first time while spending on humanitarian activities had surpassed \$25 billion.

30. As the current review cycle neared its conclusion and the preparations began for the next one in 2024, the Group wished to reiterate the need to retain a strong development focus while bearing in mind the different development levels and realities on the ground in all developing countries. Ultimately, the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions should remain the overarching objective. Furthermore, the United

Nations development system should continue to support countries, upon their request, in the acceleration of the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. More stable, predictable and sustainable funding for operational activities for development was the key to poverty eradication. Such funding must be aligned with the national development priorities and strategies of programme countries and the overall funding of the United Nations development system, especially for areas related to poverty eradication, should be increased and accelerated.

31. The Group expressed its concern at the continuing decline of core contributions to the United Nations development system, which negatively affected the efficiency and effectiveness of its functions. Reversing that trend while enhancing core contributions to entities of system would help to achieve the objectives of operational activities for development. In that regard, the Group continued to urge donors to contribute to the system in a way that was more beneficial to its coordinated efforts through core funding.

32. The Group greatly appreciated the progress made to date in the repositioned development system and the resident coordinator system. However, it was concerned about the funding shortfall in the resident coordinator system and how that affected operational activities in the field. The Group attached great importance to the need to provide sustainable, predictable and adequate funding to the resident coordinator system and reiterated its commitment to engage constructively in the consultations on that particular subject. The Group also reiterated its commitment to work closely and constructively with the Secretary-General and his team, other delegations and all members of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to collectively implement and achieve the 2030 Agenda.

33. The Group wished to reaffirm that South-South cooperation was a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. South-South cooperation should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. The Group also reaffirmed the need to work towards an international cooperation system that put development at the centre. It continued to look forward to the invaluable contributions that South-South and triangular cooperation made to the realization of development in its three dimensions, and reiterated its call for the United Nations development system to continue enhancing its support to South-South and triangular cooperation, at the request and with the ownership and leadership of the developing countries.

34. Lastly, the Group welcomed the outcomes of the twenty-first session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and recognized the positive debates and outcomes of the recent summit of the Group of 77 and China on science, technology and innovation held in Havana, which had contributed to strengthening collaboration among the countries of the South in that field.

35. **Mr. Ray** (Nepal), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that as the Sustainable Development Goals were on life support, it was imperative that significant progress was made, particularly in the least developed countries. The Group was pleased to see that survey respondent funders had generally agreed that the least developed countries, along with landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and African States, should be prioritized in funding decisions. Without progress in the least developed countries, the Goals would not be achieved.

36. It was reassuring that 50.5 per cent of expenditure for operational activities for development had gone to the least developed countries in 2022. However, the fact that only 13 per cent of core funds had been channelled to the least developed countries merely continued the pattern of unpredictable funding for them. Much of the recent increase in spending could be attributed to increased humanitarian activities, which, though vital, did not encourage the kind of institutional and productive capacity-building that many of the least developed countries needed to support their sustainable development. To achieve the Goals, most resources would be needed in the key areas of promoting health and well-being, ending poverty, improving education, combating the impacts of climate change, ensuring food security and eradicating hunger. The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries also emphasized those key areas. Equally important was support for structural transformation through productive capacity development, infrastructure building and digitalization.

37. In his Sustainable Development Goal stimulus, the Secretary-General had proposed the following three areas as urgent and critical for the least developed countries: tackling the high cost of debt and rising risks of debt distress; massively scaling up affordable long-term financing for development; and expanding contingency financing to countries in need. The Group was hopeful that its development partners would step up to the plate to make them a reality.

38. Thirty-three of the least developed countries had started the process of developing integrated national

financing frameworks with the United Nations, which could be very helpful in aligning government activities and operationalizing and funding their national priorities. However, the Group was concerned that the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, which paid for some of the joint programming for the frameworks, had decreased by 75 per cent to only \$20 million in 2022. Despite being underfunded, the Fund had demonstrated its value by catalysing an estimated \$2.3 billion since its creation in 2019. It was important for Member States to contribute actively to the Fund. As only 38 per cent of United Nations country teams reported having a formal relationship with the international financial institutions, the Group called on its partners at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to formalize the country-level relationship with the United Nations system to ensure that developing countries, especially the least developed countries, received the most coordinated support and assistance possible.

39. South-South cooperation was a critical complement to traditional development assistance. It was encouraging that the revamped South-South Galaxy platform, a United Nations system-wide knowledge-sharing and partnership platform, connected 500 registered organizations and offered a digital repository of over 900 development solutions.

40. The Sustainable Graduation Support Facility was instrumental in bringing together United Nations advisory and capacity-building services to support the graduation and smooth transition process for the least developed countries. The inter-agency task force on graduation and smooth transition also continued to provide support to graduating countries.

41. Although all United Nations development system organizations recognized the least developed country category, only a few of them had core budget targets allocated to the least developed countries. It was concerning that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank still did not recognize that category in their operations. United Nations development system organizations should develop internal guidelines on how to translate the stated priority for the least developed countries into their budget allocations. Equally needed was the recognition of the least developed country category by international organizations, and the implementation of tailored programmes to ensure coherent and consistent global support to the most vulnerable countries. The Group also call upon the United Nations development system and other international organizations to fully integrate the Doha Programme of Action into their operational mandates

and to create specific units and focal points for the least developed countries.

42. In conclusion, the least developed countries relied on the United Nations to support their sustainable development in different ways. They were encouraged to see that improvements were being made to enhance the coherence, coordination and delivery of services and support through the United Nations development system and its partnerships. However, there was still much work to do to ensure that the necessary funding was in place to make progress in their countries.

43. **Mr. Wallace** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that CARICOM member States were on the front lines of fierce and frequent exogenous shocks. From the COVID-19 pandemic health emergency and pervasive economic disruptions to illiquidity and rising external debt, their efforts to address the most urgent threats, especially climate change, had been undermined. Given the small size, limited fiscal space and inherent vulnerabilities of small island nations, their hard-earned development gains were being severely jeopardized and, without concerted actions, could be eroded with little chance of recovery. As such, the response by the United Nations to the multiple crises and challenges facing developing countries was crucial to saving lives and livelihoods and steering vulnerable countries back to a path of sustained and resilient growth and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

44. CARICOM welcomed that fact that the repositioned United Nations development system was supported by a reinvigorated resident coordinator system, a funding compact and the Development Coordination Office, all of which enhanced support to programme countries. In particular, the recommendations emanating from the multi-country office review had been implemented across the region and CARICOM member States were generally satisfied with the support provided through the offices and the resident coordinator system. However, given the lack of progress achieved towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals, especially within the global South, the time had come to shift gears from policy to implementation, and more importantly, to action at the country level.

45. CARICOM stressed the importance of leveraging the United Nations development system in a concerted manner to support the preparatory process for the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in 2024, and to galvanize solutions for the existing and emerging challenges facing small island developing States. United Nations country teams must be able to draw on the

leadership and capacities of the entire United Nations development system to foster genuine and durable partnerships in supporting small island developing States. United Nations country teams and their staffing profiles should therefore include the relevant skills sets, experience and knowledge of the unique challenges facing small island developing States and the Caribbean region.

46. The presence of entities, operational capacities and country implementation plans should be further tailored to national and regional priorities. With that mind, throughout the regional and interregional preparatory meetings for the fourth International Conference, small island developing States had stressed the importance of addressing the data and statistical gaps that existed at the national and regional levels. In that regard, CARICOM welcomed the proposal to establish a global data hub for small island developing States at the Conference and also stressed the importance of strengthening data and statistical capacities in countries covered by multi-country offices. That included improving on the ongoing work of the subregional office of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Port of Spain, which could contribute to effective operationalization of the data hub.

47. With regard to development funding, CARICOM emphasized the role of multi-country offices in mobilizing or improving access to the predictable programmatic resources needed not only to help drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway but also to support the national development plans of CARICOM member States. They were pleased that resident coordinators and resource mobilization specialists had helped to increase the levels of pooled funding available to small island developing States. The new era of collaboration should maximize the impact of support on the ground to better address their multidimensional vulnerabilities, especially in the next global development framework for small island developing States.

48. **Ms. Motsumi** (Botswana), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that the landlocked developing countries had suffered disproportionate setbacks in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. In that regard, 2024 would be a critical year as the new quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycle began and a new programme of action would be adopted at the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Kigali.

49. The repositioned United Nations development system had played a significant role in supporting the efforts of landlocked developing countries to achieve the Goals and implement the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. The Group encouraged the system to continue reporting on its best practices, lessons learned, gaps and challenges, and to provide recommendations to enable Member States to provide better guidance.

50. The Group first of all wished to emphasize that poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions must remain the overarching objective of the United Nations development system. Second, it was imperative to maintain a development-oriented approach while taking into account the unique needs of countries in different development levels and situations. Third, national ownership and leadership in all matters pertaining to the repositioning of the United Nations development system was critical for the delivery of effective results, including effective and timely reporting to the host Governments by resident coordinators and United Nations country teams. Fourth, the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework should be developed in full consultation with host Governments and must be reflective of country needs and priorities. Fifth, resident coordinators, country teams and members of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group should provide increased support in terms of resources, data and expertise to facilitate the conclusion of national development strategies.

51. The United Nations was at the forefront of important debates regarding enhancing access to affordable long-term financing for the developing world to deliver on the Goals. However, the Group was greatly concerned by the shortage of financing for United Nations development agencies, especially major cuts in contributions of core resources. In particular, there was a need for adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of the resident coordinator system to facilitate national needs and priorities for countries. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation were also important in achieving the objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action and the Goals.

52. **Ms. González López** (El Salvador) said that the United Nations development system played a vital role in supporting national efforts to promote multisectoral initiatives and interventions, including through the revitalized resident coordinator system. At the country level, there had been positive results from the effective response of United Nations country teams, led by resident coordinators, to meet development challenges, opportunities and needs. Under a system-wide approach,

there had been favourable developments such as the consolidation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022–2026, the implementation of response plans to multiple crises and current challenges, consolidated reporting of results and the formulation of inter-agency strategic initiatives to address multidimensional development challenges.

53. Progress had been made in building the architecture to follow-up on efforts between the Government of El Salvador and the different entities of the United Nations system to strengthen national statistical capacities, address the needs of the most vulnerable population groups and design a national strategy to facilitate progress on sustainable development in its three dimensions. However, there were significant challenges that needed to be addressed in order to provide adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for the whole system, and particularly for the resident coordinator system.

54. In view of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and given the current multiple crises of a multidimensional nature, it was appropriate to continue to promote a development-focused United Nations system. That, in turn, would make it possible to address the factors and causes of vulnerability, inequality and structural gaps in developing countries. At the same time, it would be valuable to have greater support from the system for resource mobilization and to build multi-stakeholder partnerships to close existing financing gaps. Efforts should continue to strengthen the planning, programming and implementation of joint and inter-agency initiatives, which would promote a new approach to work across the entire United Nations system.

55. El Salvador recognized the role of South-South cooperation as a catalyst to promote strengthened global solidarity and coordinated collaboration in the face of common development challenges. South-South cooperation complemented other development cooperation commitments, without being a replacement or substitute for them. In recent years, El Salvador had strengthened its participation and role in South-South cooperation projects. It had made progress in strategic projects to generate exchanges of knowledge and experiences and had contributed to intraregional projects involving various mechanisms and funds. It acknowledged the valuable contribution by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in promoting and coordinating efforts in that regard at the global level and within the United Nations system. El Salvador looked forward to increased support from partners of the mechanisms and funds in promoting South-South cooperation initiatives and projects.

56. **Ms. Robledo López** (Mexico) said that Mexico full supported the efforts led by the Deputy Secretary-General to reform the United Nations development system. As the deployment of United Nations operations in the field was one of the most important assets of the Organization, the role of the resident coordinators and United Nations country teams required continuous improvement and strengthening.

57. The General Assembly resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review provided an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment to the repositioning of the United Nations development system. In that context, it would be appropriate to identify areas where further efforts were needed, such as progress on disability, gender equality, climate change, disaster risk prevention or sexual exploitation and abuse.

58. The budget shortfall facing the resident coordinator system was a matter of serious concern, in particular the gradual reduction of core funding. There was an urgent need for sufficient, predictable and sustainable funding to provide resident coordinators with the resources and flexibility to fully implement their mandates, streamline response capacity and ensure transparency and accountability.

59. Mexico welcomed the progress achieved in incorporating South-South and triangular cooperation into the strategic plans of many entities of the United Nations system. It renewed the call for resident coordinators to continue to promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation schemes, and called for the transfer of technology and the sharing of practices and experiences between countries.

60. Her delegation would continue to advocate for a stronger link between development, humanitarian action and peacebuilding. However, such tasks could not be sustained by intergovernmental action alone. Mexico therefore called on the resident coordinators to encourage full and effective multi-stakeholder participation in order to harness the potential of civil society, women and youth, local governments, academia and the private sector for the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

61. **Mr. Etoundi Ayissi** (Cameroon) said that his delegation was concerned by the slow implementation of the road map for repositioning the United Nations development system, in particular the implementation of the mandates resulting from General Assembly resolutions [72/279](#) and [73/248](#). Furthermore, greater attention was needed to increase the allocation of regular resources for development financing and respect the commitments made in the funding compact, which

stipulated that resources must be mobilized in an adequate, sufficient, predictable and stable manner and aligned with national priorities, and that 30 per cent of the contributions allocated to financing should be core resources. The 30 per cent target was still far from being achieved in a context where many development partners continued to earmark the bulk of their voluntary contributions in the form of funds for thematic programmes, which still accounted for more than 85 per cent of the resources allocated to development financing.

62. However, his delegation was optimistic that with real political will, reflected in the strengthening of the global partnership, the United Nations development system would be provided with the necessary resources and means to make it an effective and relevant tool for humanity, the planet, prosperity and peace. The eradication of poverty, in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, was the greatest challenge facing humanity.

63. **Mr. Pieris** (Sri Lanka) said that cooperation between the countries of the South was more important than ever in a context of multiple crises affecting the global development agenda, especially in developing countries. The capacity to reduce poverty had been constrained by insufficient fiscal space and there had been a severe impact on social spending in many countries, including for child protection, nutrition, water and sanitation. While developed countries had been able to finance their economic recovery in the aftermath of COVID-19, developing countries had endured a constricting fiscal space and fragile investment inflows, including double digit declines across all sectors. Given the unprecedented level of international solidarity and cooperation that was needed, Sri Lanka called for an increase in both South-South and triangular cooperation.

64. South-South cooperation was not a substitute for, but a complement to, North-South Cooperation. Given that North-South cooperation remained the fundamental source of development financing, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should apply not only to combating the climate crisis but also to development financing. By implementing innovative measures, South-South cooperation could stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities and improve the overall well-being of the region's population.

65. His delegation welcomed the development of an initial voluntary conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation. It also commended the secretariat of the United Nations Office

for South-South Cooperation for its commitment to promote and facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis.

66. **Mr. Abbas** (Kenya) said that, regrettably, millions of people around the world were currently overcome by anxiety about their present and future security, dignity and prospects. The international community must take action to create a better world. In that context, the Government of Kenya had promised its citizens that it would enhance the economy from the bottom up, to empower the young men and women who were the future of the continent and the world.

67. To respond effectively to the multiple challenges faced, the United Nations needed to be adequately resourced, which meant injecting the necessary political energy and ambition into development by regarding it as core to delivering on the aspirations espoused in the Charter of the United Nations. Otherwise the immensely detailed technical debates on transparency and accountability would become little more than opportunities to slowly kill one of the Organization's pillars. To assist in bridging the financial shortfall of the resident coordinator system and to bring development back on its feet, Kenya and the United States had recently co-convened a round table to mobilize funds for the resident coordinator system. In addition, Kenya had made a contribution to the special purpose trust fund. It encouraged more Member States to contribute and prevent cuts to development agencies' core budgets.

68. South-South cooperation had been instrumental in addressing development challenges for countries in the global South. As more must be done to make such cooperation consistent and practical, the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation through its strategic framework 2022–2025 were welcome. The Office should continue to assist developing countries in recalibrating their implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in line with their needs and national priorities. Kenya welcomed the outcomes of the twenty-first session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, which had reaffirmed the aspirations of developing countries. It also welcomed the bold initiatives taken by developing countries in the South to foster multilateral initiatives. As South-South cooperation was complementary to North-South cooperation, his delegation emphasized the need for close collaboration to ensure that multilateralism was fit for purpose and reflected the voices of all.

69. Lastly, the outcomes of the Africa Climate Summit held recently in Nairobi had contributed to the Climate

Ambition Summit hosted by the Secretary-General during the high-level week and would also feed into the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

70. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that almost halfway through the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda, overall progress towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals was unfortunately very weak. The need for everyone to significantly intensify their efforts to achieve the Goals had been the central message of the recent Sustainable Development Goals Summit. Such efforts must include the removal of unilateral coercive measures. As the United Nations and its operational activities for development clearly played an important role in the process of achieving the Goals, Member States were entitled to expect the necessary support from the United Nations in the context of realizing the Goals and targets at the national level.

71. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review was extremely important as a concrete reference point for the United Nations development system. It also laid the groundwork for the implementation of important and necessary changes in the medium and long term. Belarus supported the Secretary-General's efforts to improve the operational activities of the United Nations. The resident coordinator system in place for the past five years had proved its effectiveness and relevance by providing an integrated approach to the work of the United Nations country team in the field while preserving the comparative advantages of individual agencies. It was important that the resident coordinator and the country team were fully committed to helping Member States realize their national development priorities and plans, and that the Government was a key partner of the United Nations country team.

72. It was necessary to continue to prioritize the financing of the 2030 Agenda in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. His delegation noted with satisfaction the contribution of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system over the past decade in support of development processes in quantitative terms. However, the qualitative trend was worrying as the growth in operational activities of the United Nations system was mainly in non-core resources, while the share of core resources in total operational activities was not increasing. That trend hampered the ability of the operational entities of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda, as non-core resources were neither predictable nor a reliable source of support for sustainable development processes. Moreover, non-core resources were often politicized.

73. Looking at the situation by country category, it was natural that low-income countries received the bulk of resources from the operational activities of the United Nations system. At the same time, it was important to bear in mind the need to support middle-income countries, which accounted for about two thirds of all Member States and which had their own specific development challenges. In that regard, there was a long overdue need to develop a strategic document on United Nations cooperation with the group of middle-income countries. That message had been clearly heard at numerous international conferences and other high-level events on the topic of middle-income countries since the topic had appeared on the agenda a decade and a half earlier.

74. *Mr. Cimino (Italy), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

75. **Mr. Chindawongse** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that, as only 12 per cent of the Sustainable development Goal targets were on track, the issue of operational activities for development was more important than ever. Strengthening development cooperation was instrumental for achieving the Goals at the global, regional and national levels. ASEAN therefore welcomed a comprehensive and coherent response by the United Nations development system and its whole-of-system approach. It also welcomed the ongoing efforts of the United Nations development system to implement reforms, as endorsed by the General Assembly, to better support programme countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

76. ASEAN encouraged its partners to secure adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for the resident coordinator system in order to ensure that it delivered a coherent, effective, efficient and accountable response in accordance with national needs and priorities. In that regard, ASEAN stressed the importance of the forthcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2024.

77. ASEAN valued its close partnership with the United Nations and welcomed the continued progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2021–2025). As a part of its efforts to promote complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda, ASEAN continued to strive for effective implementation of the Complementarities Road Map (2020–2025). The High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue had also been held annually since 2017 to accelerate the achievement of the Goals and explore ways to further such

complementarities. In addition, on the margins of the recent Sustainable Development Goals Summit held at Headquarters, ASEAN, together with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, had co-hosted a side event that had emphasized the unique experience of ASEAN in implementing the Goals and had discussed ways to enhance systematic and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships to translate commitments into actions. ASEAN continued to explore and exchange concrete ideas and alternative approaches, including the bio-circular-green economy and other sustainability models. ASEAN also reaffirmed its continued support for the work of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue in enhancing cooperation and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

78. ASEAN reiterated the importance of international development cooperation through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. As a regional organization, ASEAN continued to show how developing countries could mutually benefit from South-South cooperation. Beyond ASEAN, its development cooperation efforts had been strengthened through engagement with dialogue partners, sectoral dialogue partners and development partners. Sustainable development had been one of the main areas of ASEAN cooperation with key partners. As ASEAN looked to further expand partnership, in 2023, it would welcome the Netherlands as a development partner and Morocco as a sectoral dialogue partner.

79. **Mr. Bokoum** (Burkina Faso) said that he United Nations development system was undeniably effective. Host countries were increasingly expressing their satisfaction with the system, particularly in terms of the alignment of the system's support with their needs and priorities. Countries in special situations, such as the least developed countries and small island developing states, were particularly satisfied.

80. During the high-level week of the General Assembly, a side event had been organized to highlight the constructive relationship between the United Nations and Burkina Faso. The aims of the event had been to highlight exemplary processes and initiatives between the United Nations development system, the financing for development partnership and the Government of Burkina Faso; to identify socioeconomic challenges and opportunities, both internal and cross-border, with a view to increasing resilience; to create new strategic partnership approaches to achieve the objectives of the strategic action plan for sustainable development in Burkina Faso; and to mobilize donors and technical and financial partners in support of the strategic action plan, among other efforts.

81. However challenges remained, including action for the diversification of funding sources. Closing the funding gap for the resident coordinator system was also a major concern. Strengthening accountability and control was an essential element in ensuring the transparent and efficient management of resources and the implementation of development policies. Other challenges included paying particular attention to emerging themes, increasing assistance to internally displaced persons, strengthening economic resilience by supporting national entrepreneurship, improving access to basic social services for vulnerable groups, in particular women, girls and young people, and ensuring social protection for vulnerable groups and access for young people and women to socioeconomic opportunities. Innovative partnerships with local authorities, civil society and the private sector were also needed to meet such challenges.

82. South-South cooperation remained a key pillar in helping countries of the global South to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Additional efforts were also needed to meet persistent challenges, including greater commitments from Member States and international partners to support the United Nations development system, which played a crucial role in achieving the Goals and improving the living conditions of millions of people in Burkina Faso and around the world.

83. **Mr. Nguen Hoang Nguen** (Viet Nam) said that the positive results of the repositioned United Nations development system had solidified the Organization's role as the most important partner for countries in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. To improve operational activities for sustainable development, his delegation called for the provision of adequate and predictable funding to the United Nations development system, especially an increase in core-funding to allow the system to be more active in planning and designing programmes to deal with emerging global challenges. The proposal of the Secretary-General for a hybrid funding model was a promising initiative that was worth exploring in more detail, particularly regarding how it could change the effectiveness of funding for the system.

84. The work of the United Nations development system on the ground should be tailored to each country's specific context, especially for countries in special circumstances. Viet Nam welcomed the efforts to expand the profiles of resident coordinators to ensure that they could work more effectively and efficiently on the ground. Recent practices by the Development Coordination Office to explore case studies on the work of resident coordinators in different countries had been

useful in showcasing the specific outcomes of the repositioning of the United Nations development system. His delegation urged the system to support national efforts to implement the Goals by designing national sustainable development frameworks aligned with countries' priorities and needs.

85. Viet Nam called for additional support from the United Nations development system in new areas, such as digitalization, green and just energy transition, the circular economy and the application of science, technology and innovation for the achievement of the Goals. The Organization's expertise, research and policy advice, as well as the ability to build partnerships from the United Nations in those emerging areas, could help countries be better aware of and prepared for the opportunities and challenges related to their development.

86. **Ms. El Ouatiki** (Morocco) said that Morocco welcomed the key role of the repositioned United Nations development system as a solid basis for supporting programme countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. The investments made were delivering results on the ground and the repositioned system, with resident coordinators at its centre, was now a reliable partner that supported the actions of programme countries to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals. Her delegation welcomed the data showing improvements in leadership, impartiality and consultation with host Governments, as well as in the coherence, coordination and delivery of the United Nations development system.

87. However, her delegation wished to express its concerns regarding the funding situation of the resident coordinator system. The continued performance of resident coordinators and their teams required adequate, sustainable and predictable funding. It looked forward to the forthcoming deliberations to be conducted by the Secretary-General on that matter.

88. Morocco continued to make South-South cooperation one of the main pillars of its foreign policy. It was scaling up projects and initiatives to boost partnerships and promote South-South and triangular cooperation in several fields.

89. Morocco supported developing the capacities of national statistical offices and cooperation agencies so that they could use the new conceptual framework for measuring South-South cooperation adopted by the Statistical Commission in 2021. It encouraged further efforts to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation in climate action and supported partnerships between actors from the global South at the regional, national and subnational levels to combat

climate change. Morocco also stressed the importance of mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation in the preparation and presentation of voluntary national review.

90. Lastly, she noted that the delegations of Morocco and Portugal would be jointly facilitating the negotiations of the Committee's draft resolution on South-South cooperation at the current session.

91. **Ms. Gahlot** (India) said that developing countries had relied on the United Nations development system for support in realizing the goals and aspirations of their peoples and there had been several successes, particularly in the areas of health, education and humanitarian assistance. However, more than ever, the global South was looking to the system to fulfil its role in making progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, which were severely off track. India, for its part, had been running a successful partnership with the system through the India-United Nations Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. While the Fund currently had 66 development projects in 51 countries with an allocation of \$52 million, that would not be enough to achieve the Goals on time. The system must focus on the tasks that it was uniquely qualified to deliver and those should be supported with adequate and predictable volume of flexible resources.

92. South-South cooperation was a key priority for India and had therefore been at the heart of its Group of 20 (G20) presidency, which had begun with the Voice of the Global South Summit, held in January 2023 and chaired by the Prime Minister of India. Furthermore, participation from Africa in the G20 deliberations had been the highest ever and the most significant initiative had been the inclusion of the African Union as a permanent G20 member, which further amplified the voice of the global South. During its G20 presidency India had led numerous initiatives related to sustainable development, international financial system reform and addressing debt vulnerabilities, all of which were critical concerns for the global South.

93. Such work has been undertaken in the backdrop of India's long-standing bilateral development partnerships in the spirit of South-South cooperation. Guided by the priorities and requirements of its partners, India's development cooperation was wide-ranging. India had also begun work in trilateral formats with partners such as Germany and was undertaking projects focused on the Goals in Africa and Latin America.

94. Through its focus on South-South cooperation, India was seeking to address the issues of developing countries in a manner that was transparent, did not

create dependencies and led to sustained and overall growth and development in the global South while also emphasizing the importance of an open and rules-based global order that left no one behind.

95. **Mr. Gabi** (Congo) said that international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, remained a central concern for countries, as demonstrated by the key role that it had played in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and in the post-pandemic recovery. His country had always attached special importance to South-South cooperation and was striving for the implementation of an innovative financing mechanism to support projects from the countries of the South because their development path required efficient financing that could boost weak economies in the long term.

96. His country intended to work towards establishing a mechanism, similar to the Erasmus programme in Europe, for exchanges of students, teacher, researchers and trainers because the development of the global South could not take place without high-quality human resources and proficiency in science and technology.

97. South-South cooperation was an indispensable tool to help States achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, Goal 17 recognized the complementary role that South-South cooperation could play in achieving the Goals. However, unparalleled global solidarity would be needed to support developing countries as a fairer, more equitable and prosperous world depended on greater international cooperation.

98. **Mr. Shareef** (Pakistan) said that his country had just started on the road to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic when the most devastating climate catastrophe had struck in the form of floods. The United Nations development system, led by the Secretary-General, had played a crucial role in supporting national efforts to respond and recover from that major natural calamity. Moving forward, the continued support of the system in developing a pipeline of bankable projects to implement national recovery plans would be essential.

99. His delegation commended the Secretary-General for keeping development at the forefront of the Organization's priorities and supported his proposal for a stimulus to bridge the financing gap for the Sustainable Development Goals. Pakistan remained concerned about the funding issues faced by the United Nations development system, particularly the pervasive imbalance between core and non-core resources. While it was encouraging to note that core contributions had increased, the core share of total funding remained at only 21 per cent compared with 28 per cent in 2011. Moreover, progress on meeting the commitments of the

funding compact remained insufficient and the resident coordinator system faced a funding gap of \$85 million.

100. As a programme country, Pakistan attached the highest importance to the core development mandate of the United Nations development agencies in supporting countries towards the achievement of the Goals. It therefore called for adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for the core United Nations operational activities for development and looked forward to engaging in upcoming dialogues on the funding compact as well as on the resident coordinator system funding.

101. The following key principles must continue to underpin the United Nations development system: the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions must be the overarching objective; development itself must remain the system's focus, bearing in mind the different development levels and realities on the ground in all developing countries; and national ownership and leadership in all matters pertaining to system would be critical for the delivery of effective results.

102. His delegation believed in the principles of equality, solidarity and mutual benefit that underpinned the framework for South-South cooperation. Pakistan's commitment to the United Nations and South-South cooperation was steadfast. South-South cooperation was a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. It should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. Pakistan recognized the remarkable achievements that had been made through South-South cooperation and called on the United Nations and its funds, programmes and specialized agencies to continue to take concrete measures to enhance support for South-South and triangular cooperation.

103. **Mr. Bin Rosdi** (Malaysia) said that Malaysia was confident that United Nations development system would continue to demonstrate transparency and results-oriented progress, particularly in its support for integrated national policies aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. His delegation commended the Resident Coordinator and the United Nations country team in Malaysia for their efforts to address the specific needs of the country as it strove to achieve a sustainable and resilient future. His delegation was also confident in the ability to arrive at a sustainable solution for financing the resident coordinator system.

104. His delegation was pleased to note that progress had made by the United Nations development system in leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation in

climate actions. Such an approach facilitated a more comprehensive and inclusive modality for collaboration. Furthermore, Malaysia recognized the immense potential of triangular cooperation in leveraging the expertise, resources and diverse perspectives of countries from both the South and the North. By involving countries from the North, a pool of knowledge, technical capabilities and innovative solutions could be shared, resulting in enhanced development outcomes.

105. In its pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development, Malaysia welcomed collaboration with partners from both developed and developing nations. Malaysia had been sharing its wealth of development experiences and expertise by providing assistance and training through its own technical cooperation programme. Since its inception in 1980, the programme had benefitted more than 37,000 participants from 143 recipient countries. Malaysia remained committed to strengthening and enhancing existing cooperation through all available mechanisms at the bilateral, regional and intraregional levels and involving both the public and private sectors. That commitment extended to embracing public-private partnerships as a means of collaboration across all areas of cooperation.

106. Malaysia reaffirmed its continued support for the Secretary-General's efforts to deliver an effective and fit-for-purpose United Nations development system. It looked forward to a more coherent, accountable and effective system in supporting the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda. In the context of South-South cooperation, it also looked forward to a shift from the traditional donor-recipient relationship towards a more equitable and mutually beneficial partnership.

107. **Mr. Meschchanov** (Russian Federation) said that need for assistance to developing countries continued to rise in the face of an increasingly challenging macroeconomic environment. In that context, the role of the United Nations development system as a source of grant funding was particularly important. His delegation noted with regret that only 8 per cent of total ODA expenditures had been spent on poverty eradication in 2021. However, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review had established that the eradication of poverty in all its forms should remain the top priority of the development system. It was therefore crucial to increase assistance to developing countries in that area. The development system should also increase support to programme countries for their industrialization and ensure that they had affordable and reliable energy.

108. His delegation called on developed countries to honour their commitments to bring ODA up to 0.7 per cent of their gross national income and to increase

climate financing to \$100 billion per year. For its part, the Russian Federation continued to provide support to developing countries. Russian aid to developing countries in 2022 had exceeded \$1 billion, which was comparable to the figures for 2021.

109. Against the backdrop of the growing needs of developing countries, there was a clear need to improve the effectiveness of the operational activities of the United Nations. In that regard, his delegation was closely following progress in the reform of the United Nations development system. It continued to insist that the revitalized resident coordinator system should be compact, flexible and cost-effective and that it was counterproductive to inflate its staff beyond the initially agreed parameters. The Russian Federation intended to take a pragmatic approach in the forthcoming discussion of the funding model for the resident coordinator system and the updated funding compact.

110. His delegation looked forward to seeing an improvement in the quality of reporting by the resident coordinator system, which should, first and foremost, demonstrate the added value of the activities of resident coordinators rather than being merely a compilation of the achievements of United Nations agencies working in a country. His delegation would be interested in receiving more detailed information on the methodology for calculating the amount of funds saved as a result of the reform of the United Nations development system.

111. The Russian Federation agreed with the key principles of South-South co-operation, including respecting national sovereignty, not interfering in internal affairs, taking into account country specificities and refraining from imposing foreign models of development. His delegation highly appreciated the election of the Russian Federation to the Bureau of the twenty-first session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. It continued to participate in triangular cooperation programmes, making financial and expert contributions to strengthen the capacities of its partners, including in the Commonwealth of Independent States region and in Africa. It implemented such programmes jointly with the United Nations Development Programme, UNIDO, the World Food Programme and other United Nations agencies. Regional organizations, such as Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasian Economic Union, also fostered mutually beneficial and equitable partnerships between the countries of the South and their partners to address global challenges.

112. **Mr. Thaphanya** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that his delegation appreciated the

critical role of the United Nations development system and the tireless efforts of United Nations country teams in supporting Member States' national socioeconomic development plans and activities, including by mobilizing financial and technical assistance. Over the years, the partnership and collaboration between his Government and the United Nations country team has been further strengthened through the implementation of various programme. Moreover, the system had played a key role in supporting countries in special situations in addressing their specific development challenges. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the 14 per cent increase in funding for countries in special situations to enhance the implementation development activities. Activities undertaken by the system at the country level should be in line with national priorities and help to enhance development efforts and build resilience for external shocks. To ensure the effectiveness of operational activities, appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms must be put in place.

113. His country had continued to encounter multiple development challenges, which had significantly disrupted its social and economic development efforts and the livelihoods of its people. In that regard, the Government had been working closely with the United Nations country team, development partners and all stakeholders to address the country's particular needs and internationally agreed development goals had been streamlined into its national socioeconomic development plans. In that context, his delegation commended the role played by Resident Coordinator's Office in leading the United Nations country team and facilitating development activities.

114. In conclusion, his delegation wished to emphasize the following points. First, development partners were strongly encouraged to ensure the timely provision of sufficient resources, which included predictable and sustainable funding for United Nations development system. Second, the system and other specialized agencies should intensify their efforts to mobilize resources and improve their effective coordination. Resources must be channelled effectively to bridge existing development and financial gaps, in line with national development needs and priorities. Third, the system and development partners should focus on enhancing national capacities and ownership. Fourth, the system should give priority to building resilience for future shocks and be prepared for unforeseen situations. Such preparedness could encompass a spectrum of areas, such as poverty reduction, disaster management and climate adaptation.

115. **Mr. Mandla** (South Africa) said that growing inequality within and among States threatened the

achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which were essential for the creation of a more inclusive world where no one was left behind. It was essential for developed nations to deliver on the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to enable the disbursement of funds to stimulate economic growth. Furthermore, all countries should promote a strengthened and revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, with developed countries taking the lead in fulfilling obligations made at previous multilateral engagements. His delegation called on the international community to follow up and support the Secretary-General's proposal for a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus for developing countries. Some of the areas in which concrete actions could be proposed were commitments or policies to address the immediate debt crisis facing developing countries, bridging the financing gap for the Goals and undertaking systemic reforms, including reform of international financial architecture.

116. International solidarity, in particular with the poorest and with people in vulnerable situations, was the key to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda and its Goals. South Africa's contribution in supporting and strengthening a multilateral approach to South-South cooperation was centred on forming partnerships with other developing countries through formations such as the India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum, which sought to strengthen collective multilateral efforts aimed at lifting many people out of poverty and hunger.

117. South Africa would continue to resist any attempt to redefine the role, scope and principles of South-South cooperation. North-South cooperation remained the core for development cooperation and South-South and triangular cooperation were complementary to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. To unlock the potential of developing countries, a robust global partnership with developed countries remained key. In recognizing the different levels of development, ODA remained vital for developing countries. Those countries with special needs and circumstances, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, must be prioritized. The role of the private sector should also complement but not replace ODA as developing countries transitioned and expanded their industrial bases.

118. **Mr. Prabowo** (Indonesia) said that, in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic it was paramount to build resilience and develop strategies that laid the groundwork for long-term sustainable development. The United Nations development system and the resident coordinator system continued to play a pivotal role in assisting countries in navigating the complex

landscape of post-pandemic recovery while making progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The challenges were significant, but so were the opportunities for transformative change. Against that backdrop, Indonesia wished to highlight the following points.

119. First, targeted and effective programmes were needed to support a sustainable and resilient recovery in countries with limited financial and fiscal capabilities. In that regard, the United Nations development system and the resident coordinator system should align their programmes and funds to better synergize with national development plans in mapping potential sectors to create sustained economic growth. Both systems could provide expertise for an economic recovery that promoted sustainable and inclusive growth and left no one behind, including by supporting small and medium-size enterprises, creating job opportunities and addressing inequality. Continued work was needed to enhance the resident coordinator system through the provision of predictable, adequate and sustainable funding.

120. Second, the strategic value of South-South and triangular cooperation should be leveraged to support the post-pandemic recovery efforts of the global South. The United Nations development system could serve as a catalyst and facilitator for South-South cooperation by providing technical support, promoting dialogue and fostering collaboration. His delegation commended the work of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in improving the coordination and coherence of the Organization's support for such cooperation. Indonesia was committed to advancing South-South and triangular cooperation to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

121. **Mr. Dagari** (Nigeria) said that his delegation welcomed the efforts of the resident coordinator system to promote policy development for digital cooperation and facilitate digital transformation initiatives. It called for strict adherence to the principles of national leadership, national ownership and non-politicization. Adequate and sustainable funding for the system was crucial for its effective functioning.

122. As of 2021, spending on development activities had reached \$20 billion for the first time. However, the international community should increase financial contributions to Africa to reflect the unique challenges faced by African nations, such as poverty, conflict and climate change. His delegation also called for improved transparency and accountability in the United Nations development system.

123. Nigeria was committed to the principles of South-South cooperation, including respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and mutual benefit. The importance of technology transfer between developing countries was a key aspect of South-South cooperation. It was essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and fostering innovation.

124. As countries approached the halfway mark of the 2030 Agenda, there was an urgent need to accelerate progress. South-South cooperation offers a viable path to address challenges. Nigeria called for a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development.

125. **Mr. Dai Bing** (China) said that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was a shared commitment by the international community. At the recent Sustainable Development Goals Summit, leaders and the Secretary-General had called for greater solidarity in finding transformative solutions to help developing countries accelerate their recoveries and get the Goals back on track. China supported the efforts of the international community to that end. Faced with complex and intertwined external challenges, the United Nations development system should play a better coordinating role and United Nations development agencies should take more targeted measures to accelerate the achievement of the Goals. In that regard, China wished to put forward the following recommendations.

126. First, a more favourable environment for development must be created. United Nations development agencies and Member States should practice true multilateralism, prioritize development, advocate openness and inclusiveness, and effectively bring development issues back to the centre of the international agenda.

127. Second, it was important to focus on addressing the capacity for development. United Nations development agencies should better balance short-term emergency responses and medium to long term investments. They should focus on helping developing countries to improve their own capacities and realize a virtuous cycle between external assistance and their own development.

128. Third, reform of global financial governance must be promoted. Developed countries needed to effectively fulfil their ODA and climate finance commitments. The global governance system must better reflect the legitimate concerns of most countries, especially developing countries, and cooperation between the United Nations, international financial institutions and other stakeholders must be improved so that adequate

and predictable financial support was in place for sustainable development.

129. Fourth, programme country ownership and leadership must be respected. The priority development areas and urgent needs of programme countries must be taken into account in order to maximize the effectiveness of the work of resident coordinator, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies.

130. China firmly supported South-South cooperation and had done its utmost to help other developing countries realize their common development, including by putting forward the Global Development Initiative: building on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for stronger, greener and healthier global development. The Global Development Initiative had injected a strong impetus to global development cooperation and the achievement of the Goals. During the recent high-level week of the General Assembly, China had organized a high-level meeting to comprehensively demonstrate the results of implementing the Initiative. The total number of cooperation projects under the Initiative currently exceeded 200, with all beneficiaries being developing countries. China was ready to work with the international community to make continued contributions to the realization of the Goals on schedule.

131. **Mr. Suwantra** (Thailand) said that the United Nations must maintain its relevance by supporting Member States' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through a repositioned United Nations development system in which multilateralism functioned for all. In that regard, Thailand welcomed the ongoing efforts, led by the Secretary-General, to implement the mandates of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. His delegation called on the entities of the system to assist developing countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through a whole-of-system approach and looked forward to engaging constructively in the negotiations on the forthcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2024.

132. Thailand encouraged Member States to continue to take national ownership and constructively engage with the resident coordinator system in developing United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks to ensure that the development activities were carried out in line with national development strategies and planning. In that connection, Thailand had made headway in the implementation of its Cooperation Framework for the period 2022–2026, including by incorporating its “sufficiency economy philosophy”.

133. Thailand remained fully committed to advancing South-South and triangular cooperation, while stressing that South-South Cooperation should complement and not replace North-South cooperation. Thailand called on the United Nations development system to utilize the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development as a key to supporting Member States in attaining the Goals. In March 2023, Thailand and the United Nations country team in Thailand had announced the launch of South-South and triangular cooperation development projects on trade in organic agricultural products, maternal health care, midwifery and adolescent pregnancy, as well as on global health diplomacy for developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

134. The United Nations regional commissions should continue to play an active role in promoting South-South cooperation in a tailored and demand-driven manner. Thailand and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific would co-host the fifth Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation under the theme “Digital innovation and South-South cooperation: driving sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific” on 27 and 28 November 2023 in Bangkok.

135. **Ms. Gutiérrez Tórrez** (Nicaragua) said that his country was committed to further strengthening actions and initiatives to achieve the priorities of the 2030 Agenda. South-South and triangular cooperation should be targeted to meet the priorities of developing countries, including the need to eradicate poverty in all its forms. Collective action was needed to improve the effectiveness of South-South cooperation and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals while promoting unity, solidarity and cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade and economic development.

136. It was important to advocate for South-South cooperation so that developing countries could share knowledge, skills, experience and resources to achieve their development goals in a way that respected their sovereignty and socioeconomic policies without any conditions. However, South-South solidarity should not be used to justify allowing developed countries to renege on their ODA commitments.

137. Lastly, millions of people in over 30 countries suffered daily from the impact of illegal unilateral coercive measures. Her delegation rejected and condemned those unlawful measures and demand their immediate elimination.

138. **Ms. Abdala** (Mozambique) said that her country recognized the important role that South-South Cooperation played in supporting developing countries’

efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. South-South cooperation had the potential to support developing countries to effectively mitigate and adapt to climate shocks, address global health emergencies and tackle other cross-cutting development goals. Strengthened global solidarity and international cooperation was needed to accelerate progress in achieving the Goals, including through science, technology and innovation.

139. The promotion of South-South cooperation was one of her Government's priorities. Through such cooperation Mozambique had been able to carry out actions in crucial areas with the potential to leverage the country's economy and promote sustainable development. In agriculture, Mozambique had become the first African country to build a China-funded agricultural technology demonstration centre that was supporting local farmers in developing new locally adjusted techniques and seeds to boost production and productivity. Similar examples could be found in science and technology, education, health and other sectors.

140. South-South cooperation had become an important development tool that complemented North-South and triangular cooperation. Her delegation urged the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, to strengthen support to Member States in accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

141. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda continued to serve as the global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. Collective work was needed to scale up action and fulfil objectives under that important agenda. Mozambique looked forward to the deliberations of the leaders from the global South at the third South Summit to be held in 2024 in Kampala.

142. **Mr. Zoumanigui** (Guinea) said that South-South cooperation was a powerful instrument for mobilizing the social and economic partners of developing countries and that the guidelines for such cooperation should be aligned with the major concerns of developing countries. In that context, the public policies developed must be adapted to the realities and specificities of each country. Furthermore, South-South cooperation should not be seen as a substitute for North-South cooperation or ODA, but rather as a complement to both.

143. To take advantage of the many opportunities offered by South-South and triangular cooperation, the

Republic of Guinea had carried out a number of studies in recent years which had led to the idea of creating an international institute for the development of South-South and triangular cooperation, to be based in Conakry. His Government was deeply convinced that the establishment of such an institute on African soil would provide innovative solutions that were adapted to the sustainable development of beneficiary countries. The institute would aim to help developing countries, and in particular the least developed countries, to achieve individual and collective self-reliance and sustainable development. Its main mission would be to provide support for capacity-building in research and training in all areas of South-South and triangular cooperation and to coordinate and pool innovative partnerships.

144. As part of a strategic partnership with Guinea, the Islamic Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme had provided technical assistance to support the Government in drawing up the constituent documents of the institute. Guinea sought the support of Member States and all bilateral and multilateral partners to transform the institution into a reality. His delegation hoped that collective and individual efforts would make it possible to obtain an official mandate to house the institute and make it operational within a reasonable timescale, thereby promoting sustainable development.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.