



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 October 2024

Original: English

2024 session

27 July 2023–24 July 2024

High-level segment

Summary record of the 31st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 15 July 2024, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Narváez Ojeda (Chile)
later: Mr. Rae (Vice-President) (Canada)

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

Opening of the segment

1. **The President** declared open the high-level segment of the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council, including the three-day ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council.

Agenda item 5: High-level segment on reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions (E/2024/52)

(a) Ministerial meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (A/79/79-E/2024/54)

Statement by the President

2. **The President** said that, with six years remaining for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, progress on the Sustainable Development Goals continued to be stalled. While achieving the Goals remained a major challenge, in particular for the most vulnerable countries, the international community must not allow its progress to be rolled back. At the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, Heads of State and Government had expressed their unwavering commitment to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and had stressed the need for urgent, ambitious and transformative efforts to achieve the Goals.

3. The political declaration adopted at the Summit should be translated into specific action, using the opportunities afforded by the Council to advance the shared goal of sustainable development. The United Nations was seen as a means of responding to and preventing multiple crises. It was therefore time to commit to sustainable development as a key requirement for preventing, and building resilience to, conflicts and emergencies.

4. In Gaza, the blockade and recurrent hostilities had devastated the economy and essential infrastructure, leaving the population in a critical situation. In South Sudan, years of civil war had undermined development efforts, exacerbating poverty and food insecurity. Haiti was facing a combination of political, economic and natural shocks that had delayed progress and increased the vulnerability of the population. In Ukraine, the effects of the protracted conflict had been felt in entire

regions, displacing communities and reversing years of progress.

5. Those realities showed that, without inclusive and sustained development, it was impossible to build lasting peace and stability that would enable society to prosper and resist future crises. There was a need for transformative policies to foster equitable economic growth, social justice and environmental sustainability, ensuring that no community was left behind.

6. In addition to overseeing and guiding the work of a range of agencies and subsidiary bodies, the Council also provided a platform for all stakeholders to share their perspectives. Its role was crucial in ensuring focus and unity in the mission to achieve the Goals, and it promoted transformative policies to that end. The aim was to help countries to meet the needs of people and the planet, in line with national contexts. The 36 voluntary national reviews submitted to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2024 would ensure that the forum's review of national progress was informed by States' experiences, and by the lessons learned and obstacles encountered by Governments and stakeholders.

7. There was a need to continue to seek solutions to advance the achievement of the Goals. At the high-level political forum, held the previous week on the theme "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions", Goals 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 had been reviewed in depth, including the reasons for delays in achieving them. Governments and stakeholders had also presented good practices that could be replicated.

8. At the high-level segment, the Council must seize the opportunity offered by the general debate to consolidate the intergovernmental character of the forum. The presence of many high-ranking national representatives strengthened the commitment of Member States to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

9. The ministerial declaration would build on the political declaration adopted at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, looking towards the Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024, and the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit for Social Development, both to be held in 2025. Those initiatives would provide vital opportunities for stronger and more effective international cooperation. In order to bring about the required transformations, all stakeholders must commit to full engagement, constructive dialogue and raised ambitions.

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

10. **Mr. Francis** (Trinidad and Tobago), President of the General Assembly, said that the theme of the high-level political forum was particularly relevant to the current fragile international situation. The international community must find sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in order to implement the 2030 Agenda. About 1.1 billion people were living in multidimensional poverty and, without impactful action, 8 per cent of the global population would continue to go hungry in 2030. In order to deliver transformative results, it was therefore necessary to take additional action, including tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger and their wider links to conflict, climate change and economic shocks; reinforcing the strength of institutions and promoting peace and justice for all; and forging strong partnerships that would support success.

11. The 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit had seen the adoption of a strong political declaration and the launch of a new phase of accelerated action to realize the Goals by 2030. In April 2024, he had convened the first General Assembly Sustainability Week, which had highlighted the importance of sustainable tourism, transport, infrastructure and energy, while also underlining that debt sustainability was an obstacle to the fiscal space required to achieve sustainable development, especially in the most vulnerable developing countries. The event had offered a broad platform for Member States and stakeholders to reflect on ways to drive progress across the Goals.

12. The high-level political forum was a pivotal moment to advance progress in achieving the Goals and in taking action to tackle poverty in all its dimensions and manifestations, to ensure sustainable food systems, to ensure access to food for all, everywhere, and to adapt systems for the efficient delivery of global public goods, especially health and education.

13. The Summit of the Future was part of a continuum of efforts to enhance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The anticipated outcome of the Summit – the Pact for the Future – must be transformative enough to demonstrate the political will that would usher in a brighter future for all. The Summit must also point the way towards a more equitable international financial system that would address the crippling debt crisis and improve the chances that the Goals would be achieved by developing countries, especially the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small

island developing States. The Summit must also reignite public confidence to restore trust among Member States and between Governments and their peoples. Member States should be creative, inclusive and bold in ensuring that the Pact was genuinely transformational.

14. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025 would be another pivotal chance to close the widening gap in funding for the Goals. Within the General Assembly, the 2024 quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the United Nations development system would further bolster the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The potential of the high-level political forum must be harnessed to achieve a future that was safe, equitable and bright, as well as a shared vision of peace, progress, prosperity and sustainability for all, everywhere.

Statement by the Deputy Secretary-General

15. **The Deputy Secretary-General** said that the Sustainable Development Goals had been adopted by the General Assembly nine years previously. From the very start, the Goals had represented a promise of a better future for hundreds of millions of people around the world. In September 2023, world leaders had recognized that that promise was twisting in the wind. Halfway to the 2030 deadline, the Goals were in trouble. Just 17 per cent of the targets were on track, and future generations deserved more than 17 per cent of a sustainable future.

16. The barriers were plain to see: a lack of financing; geopolitical tensions and mistrust; ferocious conflicts; the climate emergency; and a crippling debt crisis that was leaving many countries unable to invest in development progress. There was therefore not a moment to lose. At the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, she had called for a rescue plan, and was now calling on Member States to move from words to action and to deliver urgent and ambitious acceleration in four key areas.

17. First, peace was needed. Conflicts in Gaza, the Sudan, Ukraine and beyond were causing a devastating loss of life and diverting political attention and scarce resources from the urgent work of ending poverty and averting climate catastrophe. It was time to silence the guns, in line with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to stop spending on war and destruction, and to invest in peace and development.

18. Second, there was a need to advance the green and digital transitions, and to speed up the energy transition, transform food systems and strike a new deal for nature. Countries should put forward ambitious national climate action plans that were aligned with the limit of 1.5

degrees Celsius, covered the whole economy and doubled as investment plans. The pursuit of a better future should not come at the expense of the planet. There should also be a surge in investment in expanding access to digital connectivity for all people, everywhere. Throughout, it was necessary to ensure that those crucial transitions were just and inclusive by simultaneously expanding access to education and skills and providing stronger social protection systems and decent jobs, especially for young people.

19. Third, action must be taken on the fuel of development – finance. The Sustainable Development Goal financing gap was growing and financial conditions in many developing countries were becoming increasingly unstable. Thankfully, the global community was beginning to act. Multilateral development banks were embarking on wide-ranging reforms to become bigger and better, Member States had been recycling their special drawing rights to boost liquidity programmes for countries in need, and bolder actions to address the debt crisis were starting to emerge. Those efforts, however, had been insufficient to improve conditions in developing countries. There was therefore a need to go further and faster to deliver a stimulus for the Goals. Doing so meant further increasing the lending capacity of multilateral development banks and changing their business models to leverage the massive amounts of private finance needed; expanding access to contingency financing for countries at risk of cash flow crises; and delivering a comprehensive solution to reduce debt pressures and borrowing costs. There was also a need to use the opportunity to reform the global financial architecture to ensure that it addressed financial challenges and represented the current world. The Summit of the Future would be a critical opportunity to address those issues. All delegations should show ambition in the final weeks of negotiations on the Pact for the Future and commit to delivering concrete change at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in 2025. It was time to reform the global financial architecture once and for all.

20. Fourth, it was time to double down on the central promise of the Goals to leave no one behind. The Goals were not just about aggregates; they represented a promise to prioritize and reach the furthest behind, to take concrete steps to realize the rights of persons with disabilities in all spheres, to tackle the power dynamics at the heart of gender inequality, and to end the violence, prejudice and discrimination faced by millions of women and girls around the world.

21. The Goals, like the Charter, were a people's agenda. Achieving the Goals meant placing vulnerable

people and groups at the forefront of national development plans, policies and budgets; addressing discriminatory laws and practices; and building strong, inclusive and transparent institutions to protect minorities, enhance participation and boost social inclusion. In a divided world, the Goals could unite people. They could also mend the social contract between people and power – between Governments and the citizens they represented and served. However, in order to ensure the success of the Goals, there was a need to keep the promises that the international community had made nine years earlier – to end poverty, protect the planet, drive shared prosperity and leave no one behind. Intergenerational partnerships must be at the forefront.

22. The United Nations family, including the resident coordinator system, United Nations entities at Headquarters and on the ground, and the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, stood with the international community as the engine room for accelerating progress towards the Goals. The time available at the forum and every day for the next six years should be used to move forward together and accelerate progress for people and the planet.

Keynote address

23. **Ms. Bachelet** (former President of the Republic of Chile, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and former Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that, despite the availability of data, information, knowledge and institutions, there was no easy way to respond to the complex issues that affected people's quality of life. Although the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was slower than anticipated, significant progress had been made since the inception of the Goals, which had transformed countless lives and brought hope to communities worldwide.

24. Multilateralism was the best opportunity to build a future for all, including the next generations. A new spirit of global cooperation and solidarity was needed to rebuild trust, set aside differences and put humanity on the path towards sustainable development. People's trust in multilateral institutions was low, and a robust international multilateral system equipped to address political, economic and environmental transformations was needed, as were institutions that could quickly adapt to emerging threats and seize opportunities to achieve peace and security, and sustainable development. Poverty and hunger, which for centuries had been unavoidable, could now be overcome through strong political will as a result of recent advances in knowledge

and technology. Commitments to end hunger and poverty were particularly urgent following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which had caused extreme poverty to increase in 2020 for the first time in decades, reversing global progress by three years.

25. Although the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss was a major threat to humankind, it was also a great opportunity to rethink economies in terms of sustainability. All countries must face that challenge, but the most affected were often those that were not responsible for the crisis. Climate action, as well as efforts to end poverty and hunger, must not be a hostage to geopolitical divisions. There was a need to increase effective political participation for all, in particular groups that had been historically disadvantaged and excluded, to stop citizens from losing faith in democratic institutions. Human rights must be protected and defended through a robust international system, in order to preserve the lives of the most vulnerable, including women and children.

26. The Summit of the Future would provide an opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges, address global governance gaps and reaffirm existing commitments, including the Goals, as well as making it possible to move towards a reinvigorated multilateral system that would have a positive impact on people's lives. Only by working together would the international community achieve the Goals and build a sustainable, peaceful world for everyone.

Statement by youth representative

27. **Mr. Kamel** (organizing partner for the major group for children and youth) said that eradicating poverty required co-created solutions and accountable governance, including collaboration between young people, Governments and civil society. The most underrepresented groups, including young refugees, migrants and Indigenous people, must be meaningfully engaged. Ahead of the Second World Summit for Social Development, Member States should take meaningful action on debt relief and tax justice, invest in universal social protection systems and ensure the engagement of the major groups and other stakeholders in the Summit.

28. Previously, the main expectation of food systems had been that they should produce enough food to feed the world. Now, in view of the increasing international awareness of the environmental and social costs of focusing exclusively on food security, the agenda must be more ambitious. Member States should take into consideration the recommendations of the youth constituency of the Committee on World Food Security

and the youth declaration of the United Nations Food Systems Summit.

29. In order to promote sustainability and advance climate action, leaving no one behind, alternative economic and financial models that prioritized intergenerational equity over short-term profits must be embraced. Member States must commit to a new collective quantified goal on climate finance, which should be based on the lessons learned from the failed \$100 billion climate fund pledge and be aligned with nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and long-term, low-emission development strategies.

30. Children's environmental health remained severely neglected, despite growing momentum for change in that area. Member States and the United Nations should develop coordinated strategies to address the issues of greatest concern with regard to children's health and development, in line with the right to a healthy environment.

31. The 2025 review of the peacebuilding architecture and the ongoing reform of the Security Council were opportunities to enhance the participation of young people in security and peacebuilding discourses. Member States should commit to comprehensive strategies and dedicated funding for the youth, peace and security agenda, including the protection of young people in civic spaces. A process should also be launched to develop meaningful and universal youth engagement in the Security Council.

32. The denial of young people's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights violated their human rights and undermined progress towards gender equality. Member States should take specific measures to uphold sexual and reproductive health and rights, and justice for all, by ensuring that every young person had access to comprehensive sexuality education and the full range of services related to such health and rights, free from stigma and discrimination. All legal, structural, financial and systemic barriers to such services should be eliminated, and the provisions on sexual and reproductive health that were included in the draft Pact for the Future must be maintained in the final version.

33. Financing, monitoring and action related to pollution and health, including plastic pollution, must be significantly scaled up to meet the goals of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, the United Nations common approach to pollution and existing multilateral environmental agreements. Further progress must be made towards an effective, legally binding global plastics treaty on the full life cycle of plastic pollution,

and a multidisciplinary science-policy panel on chemicals and waste, free from conflicts of interest, should be established. The treaty and the panel should involve the meaningful representation of the major groups and other stakeholders.

34. Grass-roots and minorities representatives must be present in long-term leadership roles, rather than simply engaged in periodic events or consultations. Peaceful environmental and human rights defenders must be protected; when they were silenced, so too were people's communities, causes and futures.

35. Young people had established a youth partners group for Our Common Agenda and, in October 2022, a youth working group on the Summit of the Future to ensure that young people's perspectives were incorporated into the Pact for the Future. An urgent reform of the international financial architecture should be outlined in the Pact, as young people must not live with the consequences of illegitimate debt. Multilateral development banks must ensure that young people were represented as observers on their boards. Urgent, bold and responsive multilateralism was needed to protect current and future generations. In relation to the appointment of a special envoy of the Secretary-General on future generations, more progressive models than those currently proposed in the draft Declaration on Future Generations should be pursued, including the establishment of an office or committee on the matter. The Council's youth forum, the current format of which should be strengthened, should serve as a platform for reviewing youth-specific commitments in the Pact and its annexes.

36. Through the coordination mechanism for major groups and other stakeholders, civil society should be engaged from the inception of new processes or summits, in particular those under the auspices of the General Assembly. The strengthening of civil society engagement should be included on the agenda of the High-level Committee on Programmes, with a view to introducing a requirement for United Nations agencies to designate a civil society focal point and developing a handbook on meaningful civil society engagement in collaboration with major groups and other stakeholders. The engagement of young people in the United Nations system must be enhanced by better responding to the administrative and support infrastructure needs of youth organizations. There was a need to go beyond simply providing grants for United Nations agencies to design youth programmes; Member States and the United Nations should provide direct financial and technical support to youth constituencies in order to enable them to organize their own participation in the United Nations system.

37. As set out in the document entitled "Principles and barriers for meaningful youth engagement" of the major group for children and youth, members of youth advisory boards should not be appointed or hand-picked by United Nations agencies without consultation. Universal and equitable representative structures driven by young people were needed.

38. There must be an immediate and permanent ceasefire in all conflicts around the world. The prevalence of impunity in the face of clear violations of international humanitarian and human rights law was undermining faith in international law and reconciliation. Young people refused to be the victims of a military-industrial complex.

General debate

39. **Ms. Nabbanja** (Uganda), Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that progress towards the Goals in many developing countries was slower than anticipated, threatening the collective commitment to leave no one behind. Developing countries continued to face multiple challenges, in particular elevated debt burdens, limited fiscal space and the adverse effects of climate change, which were undermining their efforts to achieve the Goals. The full implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be prioritized by translating the commitments agreed upon at the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit into specific actions that supported developing countries in their efforts to achieve the Goals. Strengthened international cooperation, multilateralism and international solidarity were needed at all levels to address global challenges and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The basic principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must be upheld in the pursuit of sustainable development.

40. Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, was the greatest challenge facing the world, an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Adequate means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda must be provided. Developed countries should fulfil their previous commitments and agree to a new phase of international cooperation through a scaled-up global partnership for development. In the light of the increasing funding gap for the Goals, additional, quality, adequate, sustainable and predictable financing was required. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda was an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. Its full, timely and effective implementation was critical for the realization of the Goals. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development

would provide an opportunity to assess progress in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and address the related financing challenges.

41. There was a need to ensure that developing countries had the necessary fiscal space for recovery and for the achievement of the Goals. The measures required to that end included the urgent reform of the international financial architecture; the fulfilment of official development assistance (ODA) commitments by developed countries; access to concessional finance for all developing countries, in particular low- and middle-income countries; debt treatment; enhanced financing mechanisms, including innovative financing; the combating of illicit financial flows, which drained resources from developing countries; the addressing of unilateral coercive measures; the establishment of measurements of progress on sustainable development that complemented or went beyond gross domestic product (GDP); and the strengthening of international tax cooperation and increased foreign direct investment flows to the global South.

42. It was important to fully implement the proposal by the Secretary-General for a Sustainable Development Goal stimulus to help developing countries to tackle the high cost of debt and increasing risks related to debt distress; to enhance support for developing countries; to massively scale up affordable long-term financing for development; and to expand contingency financing to countries in need. The Group reiterated its commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and urged the international community, in particular developed countries, to help developing countries to address the challenges they faced in accelerating such implementation.

43. **Mr. Kommasith** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN was strongly committed to achieving sustainable development in the region. That commitment embodied the universal call to end poverty, protect the planet and continuously improve people's livelihoods and well-being.

44. ASEAN continued to promote complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda, and to work towards realizing the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, which included shared principles of people-centred development in which no one was left behind. ASEAN would strengthen the position of South-East Asia as an epicentre of growth by responding to global challenges and unleashing the region's full growth potential.

45. ASEAN remained steadfast in its work to narrow development gaps and enhance the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the promotion of rural development and collaboration, while continuously empowering young people, women, persons with disabilities, elderly persons, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and migrant workers. It would work with its partners to implement the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific through practical activities, and it looked forward to building an economic architecture supported by resilient supply chains, greater connectivity and accelerated digital transformation.

46. ASEAN was committed to accelerating just and inclusive energy transitions while ensuring energy security, reliability, accessibility, sustainability, resilience and affordability. It would increase investment in human resources development, including in quality education systems, improve the regional health system, and regional health infrastructure and cooperation, and work to better prevent, prepare for and respond to future pandemics, and emerging challenges and shocks. It was also committed to scaling up cooperation on disaster risk reduction and addressing climate change and other environmental issues. The Summit of the Future was an opportunity to recall the commitments made during the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and to chart a course towards fully implementing the 2030 Agenda and reinvigorating the multilateral system.

47. Speaking as the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, he said that the international community should urgently fulfil all its previous commitments, in particular the commitment to bolster support for developing countries in addressing their development needs. The eradication of poverty and the narrowing of the development gap required special attention, with due consideration for groups of countries in special situations. The international community should establish an environment conducive to peace, development and cooperation and reduce the extent to which developing countries were subjected to shocks. His Government was committed to upholding multilateral cooperation in order to achieve impactful outcomes through global partnerships, dedication and collective efforts.

48. **Mr. Habet** (Belize), Minister of Sustainable Development and Climate Change, speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that his region had continued to witness the escalating effects of climate change. The havoc wrought by Hurricane Beryl in the eastern Caribbean and Jamaica in 2024 had underscored the need for urgent action; the storm had inflicted widespread damage on public infrastructure,

homes and local ecosystems, and had led to loss of lives and livelihoods. CARICOM urgently called on its partners to support the relief and recovery efforts. It also remained concerned about the humanitarian situation in Haiti, noting that the 2024 humanitarian response plan was severely underfunded and calling on the international community to respond generously to the immediate needs of Haiti and to support its efforts to achieve peace, stability and sustainable development. CARICOM was in a precarious position, constantly forced to redirect resources from sustainable development to crisis response needs and climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, with its resilience progressively dwindling.

49. The international community must scale up the financing needed to realize the Sustainable Development Goals and increase investment in critical sectors, such as education and health care, as well as in the food, digital and energy transitions. Doing so was also necessary to strengthen human capital and build the ecosystems, institutions and capacities required to promote and use science, technology and innovation for development. The annual gap of \$4 trillion in financing for the Goals must be bridged. There was also a need for a more inclusive financial architecture that ensured easier access to concessional finance and debt relief and restructuring solutions catering to the development priorities of small island developing States. The adoption and implementation of the multidimensional vulnerability index and other such tools across institutions and programmes would be a step towards enhancing eligibility criteria.

50. Climate commitments needed to be met and investments in climate resilience and adaptation increased. Small island developing States, which had lost \$153 billion between 1970 and 2020 as a result of weather extremes, could not continue to pay the price for the actions of major emitters, which must be held accountable. Accelerated technology and knowledge transfer to developing countries, without caveats, was needed.

51. The Summit of the Future was an opportunity for the international community to realign its efforts and build trust in the multilateral system. It should commit to adopting the innovative approaches and political will needed to ensure a peaceful, prosperous and healthy world for young and future generations.

52. **Mr. Soares** (Cabo Verde), Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration, speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that geopolitical tensions, climate change and economic instability in Africa were exacerbating poverty and

inequalities, necessitating urgent, integrated and innovative responses to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and implement Agenda 2063 of the African Union. The fact that most of the Goals were off track underscored the need to scale up efforts and renew the commitment to achieving the development targets. The eradication of poverty in all its forms was the world's greatest challenge and was necessary in order to achieve sustainable development.

53. African countries were facing major challenges owing to high levels of debt and limited fiscal capacity. As a result, heavy investment in industrial and agricultural development was required. Strong international support, including debt relief, foreign direct investment and greater access to international markets, was needed to address such budgetary challenges. Development in Africa had been hampered by deficient international financial systems. The Group called for urgent reforms, including increased representation in international financial institutions and a more equitable debt resolution framework. It was essential to strengthen international cooperation for the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the mobilization of financial resources.

54. The Group also called for specific action to support developing countries, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal stimulus proposed by the Secretary-General, aimed at effectively combating the high cost of debt and bolstering long-term financing for development. The adverse effects of climate change continued to undermine development efforts in Africa. In response, African States had committed to strengthening their resilience through sustainable environmental policies and practices that supported climate adaptation and mitigation.

55. **Mr. Ambrazevich** (Belarus), Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Family, said that the full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda would not be possible unless the family, as the natural and fundamental unit of society, was empowered to fulfil its role adequately. Family-oriented policies had proved to be valuable and efficient in many areas of social development, providing sustainable, affordable and high-quality living conditions for families and enabling them to contribute to economic development, social cohesion and intergenerational solidarity. Integrating a family perspective into the development agenda would be a step towards achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals before and after 2030.

56. The Group welcomed the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024, which was an opportunity to redefine family-oriented policies as part of overall development efforts, supporting the goal of responding to the challenges faced by the institution of the family, leading national efforts benefiting families worldwide and introducing family impact assessment as an ongoing part of policymaking. The United Nations played a crucial role in strengthening global cooperation on family-related issues, especially in the areas of research and information, and it should pay due attention to raising international awareness of the importance of the family in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as of the need to give due consideration to family-related matters in the preparation of the post-2030 development agenda. The Pact for the Future should reflect the topic of family policy development in the most ambitious and action-oriented manner possible.

57. The Group acknowledged the important role of partnerships among all relevant stakeholders, including United Nations entities, civil society, research institutions and academia, and encouraged increased research efforts and awareness-raising activities related to achieving sustainable development through policies and programmes prioritizing family well-being.

58. The Group welcomed the convening of a conference to mark the anniversary of the International Year of the Family, which would be held in Doha in October 2024. It also welcomed the continued expansion of the Group's membership and invited other interested Member States to join the Group, with a view to promoting concerted action to strengthen family-oriented policies and programmes, as part of an integrated, comprehensive approach to sustainable development. The Group was committed to working with other Member States, the United Nations and civil society to protect the family and to pursue pro-family policies at all levels to ensure a safer and more prosperous future for families, especially children.

59. **Mr. Tevi** (Vanuatu), Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States, said that global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals had proved insufficient, but the tide could be turned through collective changes to policies and practices at all levels, as well as through international cooperation. Achieving the Goals was not just an aspiration but a necessity for the Pacific small island developing States, which had been disproportionately affected by a myriad of interconnected challenges requiring urgent and concerted action. Enhancing climate action was paramount. The destructive force of climate change had

been witnessed first-hand in the Pacific small island developing States, with extreme weather events occurring more frequently. In order to rebuild, those States, which bore little responsibility for the climate crisis, had been forced to rely on their own limited resources and to divert resources from critical sectors, such as education and health care. Increased international support, through decisive action to bridge the climate finance gap, was therefore imperative. If the Goals were to be achieved, urgent action on the climate crisis must be taken.

60. He welcomed the establishment of the loss and damage fund and called for its urgent operationalization. He also welcomed the advisory opinion issued by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on the legal obligations of States, in particular developed countries and other major emitters, to address marine pollution caused by anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Support was needed to mobilize action and ensure strengthened partnerships with international financial institutions, development banks, United Nations entities, the private sector and development partners in accelerating the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, whose adoption had been a milestone for such States in their pursuit of sustainable development.

61. Pacific small island developing States were eagerly awaiting the adoption of the multidimensional vulnerability index. There was a need for a more inclusive and equitable international financial architecture that was responsive to their most pressing needs. Such a reform should prioritize the provision of accessible and affordable financing for sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives, as well as for addressing loss and damage.

62. A common theme of the voluntary national reviews presented at the high-level political forum was that strong partnership and cooperation were essential to sustainable development. The voluntary national reviews of Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu had provided a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by the region, and had shown the commitment of those countries to accountability, transparency and resilience in their unwavering pursuit of sustainable development. In order to achieve the Goals by 2030, there was a need for enhanced political will, redoubled efforts, the establishment of a strong accountability mechanism, and engagement among stakeholders to ensure inclusive decision-making and implementation processes.

63. **Mr. Thapa** (Nepal), Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the lack of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular for the least developed countries, could worsen inequality and widen the sustainable development divide. Alarming, 250 million people in those countries, including 60 million children, were affected by hunger and malnutrition. The least developed countries had economies that were heavily dependent on agriculture, and the pace of their industrialization was slow. They faced growing debt service burdens and tight fiscal constraints, as well as the lowest level of ODA in a decade. They also faced disproportionate climate change trade-offs and rising costs associated with climate-related loss and damage. It was alarming that about 70 per cent of worldwide deaths over the previous 50 years had occurred in the least developed countries.

64. The fragility of the least developed countries and the current global uncertainty called for decisive measures to address the priorities and actions outlined in the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. Under the Programme, 15 additional countries were expected to graduate from the list of least developed countries by 2031. In that context, it was critical to support the early implementation of the five key deliverables of the Programme in order to enable the least developed countries to achieve the Goals. The least developed countries had high potential for industrialization; support from their development partners was needed to strengthen their productive capacities, with a focus on enterprise development, skills formation and the application of new technologies.

65. The creation of fiscal space for the least developed countries was important. Developed partners must fulfil their commitments to the least developed countries. Debt sustainability and management support was also critical to enable the least developed countries to respond and adapt to global trade, financial and development disruptions. Those countries needed partnerships in order to prioritize investment in young people through higher education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, increase investments in health systems, and address malnutrition and food insecurity by transforming food systems and promoting sustainable agriculture. Development partners must support the least developed countries in achieving structural transformation through innovation and technology transfer. In order to combat climate-induced adversity, the least developed countries required continuous support from development partners in the

preparation of their national adaptation plans. They also needed easy access to climate funds to enable them to adapt to climate change.

66. Goal 17, on partnerships, remained at the core of the efforts of the least developed countries to achieve the other Goals. The Group was committed to continued innovation and dedicated action in pursuit of sustainable development and looked forward to continued partnership and solidarity to make irreversible progress a reality.

67. *Mr. Rae (Canada), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

68. **Mr. Vasconcelos** (Mexico), Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, speaking also on behalf of Australia, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Türkiye, said that efforts to work together to eradicate poverty, end hunger and tackle inequalities within and among countries would require a focus on the three dimensions of sustainable development and the linkages between sustainable development and human rights, including gender equality. Looking towards the Summit of the Future, it was critical to translate Member States' commitments into deliverables that could support an ambitious outcome. The five countries reaffirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and recognized that effective global partnerships were key to its implementation and to addressing global development challenges through sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.

69. The five countries valued the voluntary national review segment of the high-level political forum, as it provided countries with an opportunity to showcase their progress and share lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Against that backdrop, the voluntary national review process should be strengthened through improved peer learning, greater interaction and enhanced exchanges of experiences. Of equal importance was the need to uphold the quality of, and accountability through, voluntary national reviews, to realize the related benefits through follow-up mechanisms and to draw further attention to voluntary local reviews as a means of highlighting the localization of the Goals. The five countries would continue to advocate for a comprehensive approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda by strengthening multilateralism and promoting transformative, social and inclusive policies and actions.

70. **Ms. Frazier** (Malta), Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the LGBTI Core Group, said that the Group had consistently called for concrete action that promoted the full enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental

freedoms of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Achieving the 2030 Agenda would not be possible if violence and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or sex characteristics, persisted.

71. During the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, it had been reaffirmed that the Goals were intended to realize the human rights of all. In that light, there was a need to guide actions to end inequality and address its root causes through an intersectional approach. Member States, international organizations, including United Nations system entities, and all other stakeholders must take responsibility and promote specific actions in that regard. There was a need to combat discriminatory attitudes, gender stereotypes and negative social norms that discriminated against, and undermined respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. The Group called for the promotion and implementation of inclusive policies that addressed the needs of persons in all their diversity, and that fostered the full and meaningful participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in decision-making processes at all levels of society. Diversity and inclusion were fundamental to ensuring that no one was left behind.

72. **Mr. Smyth** (Ireland), Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform and at the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, speaking on behalf of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, said that the high-level political forum marked a critical moment for accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, with peace, justice and inclusion at their core. Conflict and violence filled the lives of too many people around the world, equal access to justice for all remained elusive, and inequalities between and within countries continued to rise. Many countries had reversed progress in relation to their human rights obligations, while global crises and challenges, including climate change, the rising cost of living, rapid technological change, and food and energy insecurity, highlighted shared yet unequal global fragility. Poverty and food insecurity were increasing inequalities and social exclusion, and slowing progress towards peace. The adverse effects of climate change were increasing uncertainty in people's lives.

73. Violence, injustice and inequality were pervasive but not inevitable. Some cities had reduced violence by more than 60 per cent through holistic, rights-based approaches. Addressing inequality and exclusion not

only benefited people in vulnerable situations, but also led to more equal societies with more sustained growth rates and faster progress in health and education. Gender equality was strongly associated with more stable and peaceful societies. Democratic governance and political inclusion enhanced the poverty-reduction impact of GDP growth. Increased participation and accountability improved social protection. However, corruption was jeopardizing such basic freedoms, undermining the legitimacy of States and depleting State resources for basic services and programmes for inclusive growth and security.

74. Peaceful, just and inclusive societies provided stability and an enabling environment for development. Progress towards Goal 16 would enable progress towards the other Goals and was critical to addressing crises, including through anticipatory action and a systems approach grounded in human rights. International humanitarian law must be respected in conflicts. In order to harness the enabling role of Goal 16 and accelerate progress towards all the Goals, the commitments outlined in the political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the Pact for the Future must be realized. Inclusive approaches involving all stakeholders, especially civil society, must be taken in order to localize the Goals. Amid growing global polarization and distrust, the social contract between people and national and international institutions needed to be rebuilt. Breaking the promise to leave no one behind was not an option.

75. **Mr. Luteru** (Samoa), Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that, in the nine years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, there had been setbacks and mounting challenges to development. The Summit of the Future provided an opportunity to take a more agile approach. Small island developing States would be unable to eradicate poverty without addressing climate change, which required strong institutions and partnerships. The particular circumstances of such States called for contextual, anticipatory and transformative actions; the impact of Hurricane Beryl had confirmed that such States could not respond to climate change in isolation, did not have the physical space needed to rebuild continually and were obliged to borrow from the markets at high rates to finance their reconstruction efforts. The international community must fulfil its development commitments to such States in order to prevent them from abandoning the collective to safeguard their own interests. The

United Nations must move with the times and take bold action to bring about a better future for all.

76. **Mr. Fu Cong** (China), Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative, said that global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals had fallen far short of expectations. Years of gains in poverty eradication were being lost, and the world was facing multiple challenges, including the growing global development deficit. The international community must uphold multilateralism and take joint action to bring the 2030 Agenda back on track. Development should be at the centre of international cooperation and global development partnerships should be revitalized. Developed countries should provide financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing countries and fulfil their ODA commitments. There was a need to support the central coordinating role of the United Nations in international development cooperation, to strengthen synergies between countries' development agencies and to foster global development.

77. Global cooperation in poverty eradication must be strengthened to ensure that no one was left behind. The international community should increase investment in poverty eradication, especially in rural areas, enhance policy exchanges and practical cooperation in poverty eradication and help developing countries to implement targeted poverty eradication policies. The Group called on the Secretary-General to establish a special envoy for poverty eradication and mobilize more resources to address global poverty.

78. Global food security must be safeguarded to achieve zero hunger. Sustainable food and agriculture systems should be promoted and the food self-sufficiency of developing countries should be enhanced, with more capacity-building support from developed countries. A just international food trade order must be promoted, major agricultural organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, must be allowed to play their role, the stability of the international food market must be maintained and food security must not be politicized.

79. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must be upheld so that countries could jointly address climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement should be fully implemented. Developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions, achieving carbon neutrality ahead of schedule and honouring their commitments, including

those related to climate finance. The international community must oppose unilateral coercive measures, which impeded economic and social development, in particular in developing countries, as well as measures to use climate change as an excuse to practise protectionism and build green trade barriers.

80. **Mr. Wallace** (Jamaica), Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends for Children and Sustainable Development Goals, said that there was a long way to go to fulfil the vision of a world in which all children could grow up free from exploitation and violence and in which they were provided with the tools to reach their full potential. Sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions with a child rights perspective were needed to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

81. The theme of the high-level political forum was particularly relevant to children, who were among the most vulnerable to the effects of poverty and crises. Of the 333 million children living in extreme poverty, 200 million were in conflict-ridden or fragile contexts, without access to quality education, nutrition, health care or social protection. Children living in poverty were experiencing a violation of their human rights. The mere existence of poverty indicated a severe lack of fundamental resources, including food, water, education, protection and shelter. It also threatened children's futures, as persistent poverty perpetuated intergenerational cycles of deprivation. Making the right policy choices could end child poverty, breaking those debilitating cycles.

82. Greater and more efficient investment in children was needed. Evidence had shown that investing in children during their formative years was integral to preventing them from becoming poor in the future. Current investment in social protection and social services, among other critical services, was insufficient. In that regard, cash transfers reduced inequality, as well as monetary and multidimensional poverty, while stimulating broader positive economic effects. Social protection was essential to preventing shocks and mitigating their impacts. Almost half of the 4 billion people without social protection were children. Public and private resources must therefore be transparently mobilized for social protection to enable children to reach their full potential. Policies and investments for children, including effective and meaningful engagement with children in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda, must be scaled up. Children must have the opportunity to learn about the Goals, be inspired to take action in their communities and have their voices heard during consultations.

83. The Goals must be implemented for and with children in order to enable systemic, structural and long-term positive change. Action must be taken to guarantee a sustainable future for all children and to ensure that they had full access to the rights guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

84. **Ms. Nabbanja** (Uganda), Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament, said that, in the six years remaining until 2030, her country's efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda would be guided by its six commitments to Sustainable Development Goal acceleration and transformation, and those commitments would be integrated into the fourth national development plan (2025–2030). Uganda would enhance local financing, strengthen partnerships for localizing the Goals, support mindset change and enhance citizen participation, as well as improving data, monitoring and reporting by exploring advanced data generation methodologies.

85. The achievement of the Goals and socioeconomic transformation required sustainable financing. Her Government was therefore exploring diversified funding sources and innovative financing models in order to enhance financial resilience and resource availability to honour its promise and achieve the aspirations set out in Uganda Vision 2040. The international financial architecture must be reformed to ensure that financing, especially long-term financing for developing countries, was provided on favourable terms, since financing was a major trigger for sustainable economic development.

86. **Mr. Badhib** (Yemen), Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology, said that his country was caught in a protracted cycle of war and conflict, its infrastructure had been destroyed, and its people's aspirations for peace and development had been undermined. Despite efforts by the Secretary-General and the Special Envoy for Yemen, as well as mediation efforts by Oman and Saudi Arabia, his country's hopes of contributing to international peace and security, including the safety of international waterways, had been dashed. Terrorist militias had waged an economic war by launching drone attacks on oil exporting ports, which had deprived the country of vital income that would have been used for improving living conditions.

87. In 2024, Yemen had submitted its first voluntary national review, with broad stakeholder participation. In the review, the key challenges that hindered the country's progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals had been emphasized: more than

4.5 million people were displaced, 2.5 million children were out of school and GDP had contracted by more than 50 per cent. More international support and financial assistance were required. Commitments must be translated into tangible measures to support the efforts of developing countries in achieving the Goals. There was a need for strengthened international cooperation, multilateralism and international solidarity to address global challenges and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He called on the international community to support Yemen in achieving sustainable peace, ending the Houthi coup, restoring State institutions and financing the implementation of a comprehensive reconstruction programme, as well as achieving the Goals, overcoming the humanitarian crisis and remedying the economic situation.

88. **Ms. Ribera** (Spain), Third Vice-President of Spain and Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, said that work needed to be done in both the social and environmental fields in order to foster economic progress. Such work should go hand in hand with the mobilization of resources through initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goal stimulus to ensure that the achievement of the Goals was adequately funded. At the Summit of the Future, the international community must show that it could not only analyse the Goals, but also make faster progress towards their achievement. The Summit would be a great opportunity to move forward with more international governance and strengthened multilateralism centred on peace and human rights, as well as to honour the commitment made in the United Arab Emirates Consensus to transitioning away from fossil fuels. Prosperity would be impossible if environmental limits were not respected. Ensuring that international financial flows were consistent with the Goals was another challenge that the international community would face at the Summit; there was a need for sustainable development indicators that went beyond GDP. The Summit was also an opportunity to ensure that appropriate language was used in the fight for equality and respect for human rights, and that citizens participated in the programmes related to that fight.

89. At the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in November 2024, work should be undertaken to advance the consensus reached at the twenty-eighth session. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, as well as the sessions of the Conferences of the Parties to the Rio conventions, to be held in 2024, would provide opportunities to strengthen financing for

the Goals. Without innovative sources of funding, achieving the Goals would be difficult. There was a need to respond to the crisis in access to concessional financing and the debt crisis, and to ensure, through fiscal instruments, a fair system of contributions that would reflect, among other things, steadfast commitment in relation to the United Nations Development Programme.

90. **Mr. Kholiqzoda** (Tajikistan), First Deputy Prime Minister, said that, in order to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, international cooperation must be enhanced. Technical support for partners across the economic, social and environmental aspects of development was crucial. The Summit of the Future, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit for Social Development were important milestones on the path to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Through ongoing reforms, Tajikistan had been able to make significant progress in the achievement of most of the Goals. As a result of effective economic policy and anti-crisis measures, Tajikistan had overcome external shocks and managed to maintain economic growth at an average rate of 7.4 per cent annually. GDP per capita had increased by 2.3 times. The level of poverty had decreased from 83 per cent in 2003 to 21.2 per cent in 2023.

91. Tajikistan would continue to make a substantial contribution to the achievement of Goals 6 and 13. It was supporting the global water agenda through its water-related initiatives and the Dushanbe Water Process; the Third High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” had been held in Tajikistan in June 2024 and had been focused on international partnerships on water-related matters. The next such conference would be held in Tajikistan in 2025 and would be focused on the preservation of glaciers.

92. **Mr. Nga** (Malaysia), Minister of Housing and Local Government, said that the Summit of the Future was a golden opportunity to get the Sustainable Development Goals back on track and for the international community to honour the promises made in 2015. The Summit was compatible with the Madani framework, aimed at strengthening the economy and increasing the wealth of Malaysia, which was committed to eradicating abject poverty by 2025. An initiative had been launched to help low-income groups to generate sustainable income rather than rely solely on direct cash assistance. His Government had designated lead ministries for each of the Goals, with a view to achieving them more quickly.

93. Innovative solutions and digital technologies should be adopted, and his Government had introduced a central database for socioeconomic data to ensure that targeted assistance reached deserving groups. There had also been reforms in the approach to diesel fuel subsidies, which would result in significant annual savings and lead to increased fiscal stability and support for sustainable development initiatives. There was a need for robust regional cooperation and transformative partnerships to ensure that no one was left behind. It was hoped that the Summit would lead to enhanced actions at the local level, strengthened evidenced-based policies, global peace and the mobilization of catalytic financing. There must be a ceasefire in all areas of conflict, as there would be no sustainability or prosperity without peace.

94. **Mr. Hladik** (Czechia), Minister of the Environment, said that geopolitical tensions, conflict and wars, including the Russian aggression against Ukraine, economic challenges and environmental issues were testing the resolve of the international community. Czechia had completed the second evaluation of its national strategic framework and had made good progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2, but progress on Goal 13 remained slow. Decarbonization was a priority but also a challenge for Czechia as an industrial country. The much-needed acceleration of progress towards the Goals would require partnerships with the private sector, local authorities and citizens. Czechia supported the call for transparency and reforms. At a special event to be held the next day, his delegation would present a case study, prepared in conjunction with UN-Water, on accelerating progress towards Goal 6.

95. The current high-level political forum was a unique opportunity to build on the rescue plan adopted at the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit through an ambitious ministerial declaration that would inform the Summit of the Future. Czechia supported development projects in all regions, in its national capacity and as part of the Global Gateway strategy of the European Union. Czechia would submit its third voluntary national review in 2025.

96. **Ms. Yatun** (Indonesia), Chairperson of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia, said that it was time to take strengthened actions in order to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Financing for the Sustainable Development Goals must be made available, accessible and affordable. There was a need for an inclusive and multilateral system that was more responsive to the needs and challenges of those left furthest behind. The Summit of the Future presented a golden opportunity to reform that system, including the

international financial architecture. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development must ensure additional mechanisms to fund the Goals for developing countries. There was a need to go beyond numbers in order to implement the Goals; to ensure accountability and impact, the Audit Board of Indonesia conducted annual reviews of the country's efforts in relation to the Goals. A long-term vision of sustainable development was required to build a better future, and that would involve scaling up the development agenda beyond 2030.

97. **Mr. Mirzoyan** (Armenia), Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, said that the theme of the forum was particularly relevant in the context of the many current interrelated global challenges, which had had a negative impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Solidarity and effective cooperation by the international community were of crucial importance to address such crises and to ensure a safer world for future generations. Ambitious and transformative changes were possible through political will and determination. Over the previous four years, Armenia had faced the global pandemic, a large-scale war, acts of aggression, and an influx of about 115,000 Armenians as a result of the blockade and ethnic cleaning in Nagorno-Karabakh, all of which had jeopardized its sustainable development efforts. Nevertheless, Armenia had remained committed to achieving the Goals and bringing about positive change for its people by building strong democratic institutions, safeguarding human rights and the rule of law, and fostering social inclusion, gender equality and the empowerment of young people. Looking ahead to the Summit of the Future, Armenia stood ready to contribute to the adoption of a forward-looking and results-oriented Pact for the Future. Armenia was committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda, building back better and leaving no one behind.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.