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President: Ms. Narváez Ojeda (Chile)

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

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 (*continued*) (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 (*continued*) (A/79/79-E/2024/54)

General debate (continued)

1. **Ms. Buenrostro Sánchez** (Mexico), Minister of Economy, said that her country remained committed to the shared vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2016, it had been one of the first countries to submit a voluntary national review and would be presenting its fourth such review in 2024. Her Government had embarked on a campaign of public policy reform and had elaborated a people-centred national development plan that was aligned with the 2030 Agenda. In an effort to focus on the most vulnerable, it had redistributed the national budget to address the deep-rooted causes of poverty, thereby lifting more than 5 million persons out of poverty between 2018 and 2022.

2. The international community was witnessing shifts towards unilateralism and isolationism in different parts of the world, accompanied by harmful attitudes that perpetuated divisions. More than ever before, there was a need to reaffirm the value of multilateralism as a means of building lasting peace. In that context, the Sustainable Development Goals were an alternative to division and confrontation and should be reclaimed as a collective agreement to promote a common agenda. They represented not only a commitment to the present, but also a recognition of human inaction and its consequences for the future. The international community should redouble its efforts to achieve the Goals, so as to build a prosperous future for all.

3. **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, said that it was imperative to harness the momentum of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in 2023, in order to set the world back on track towards achieving the Goals. The high-level political forum on sustainable development was an essential platform for assessing progress, understanding specific challenges and reinforcing the interlinkages and interdependence of the Goals. Plans for achieving the

Goals should take account of synergies and trade-offs across the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the link between peace and progress on the Goals had never been more apparent, in the light of ongoing conflicts and their terrible consequences.

4. The upcoming Summit of the Future would provide an opportunity to build on commitments and reinvigorate the ambitious global action needed to rescue the Goals. There was a need to re-energize the multilateral system to enable it to deliver on the promises of the 2030 Agenda. Climate change required urgent and decisive action. The journey to climate neutrality would have different impacts on different people, and the principles of a just transition would be integral to ensuring that climate action was sustainable, inclusive and equitable. To leave no-one behind in implementing the 2030 Agenda, global leaders should listen to their regions, their cities and their young people.

5. **Mr. Feo** (Papua New Guinea), Minister for Higher Education, said that while some progress had been made in a number of sectors towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the situation in his country remained concerning. To deliver on the Goals, Papua New Guinea needed to improve its national coordination, coherence and action-oriented efforts; make prudent use of its limited financial resources; and establish development partnerships that supported its national priorities. Accordingly, his Government had adopted legislative, policy and other measures, including a national development road map for the period 2023–2027 and a national vision for the period leading up to 2050.

6. With respect to Goals 1 and 2, his Government was investing heavily in the agricultural sector, with a view to eradicating hunger and poverty and creating employment opportunities. To achieve Goal 13 on climate change, and despite its negligible levels of carbon emissions, Papua New Guinea was aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. In that regard, there was a need for improved access to climate finance based on a simplified and tailored process that supported the development needs of countries in special circumstances. Concerning Goal 16, his Government was seeking to strengthen judicial and governance measures in the areas of law and policy, and to reform the judicial system, including by increasing the number of national and supreme court judges. It had also recognized the important role of its Ombudsperson institution in fostering accountability among holders of public office.

7. **Ms. Stoeva** (Bulgaria), Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations, said that poverty eradication remained an elusive goal that required innovative solutions, increased domestic resource mobilization, effective international cooperation, new sources of financing, measures to tackle social exclusion and a human rights-based approach to policy formulation. Children, who were most at risk of poverty and exclusion, were a priority for Bulgaria. Accordingly, her Government had adopted comprehensive measures and sectoral policies to invest in human capital and was taking demographic diversity into account to strengthen resilience in terms of education, employment, social protection, healthcare and other areas.

8. Addressing persistent hunger would require a sweeping response to food insecurity that was based on investment in resilient food systems and improved access to global markets for producers. Advancing climate action was imperative, and her country was participating actively in joint efforts to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts. Like other States members of the European Union, Bulgaria was on its way to achieving climate neutrality. Promoting peace, justice and strong institutions was critical for implementing the 2030 Agenda. To that end, it had become necessary to ensure greater respect for human rights, address the root causes of gender inequalities, combat corruption and make sure that new and emerging technologies did not create new forms of inequalities. Multilateral cooperation, global partnerships and the engagement of all stakeholders would be the most effective framework for achieving those common goals.

9. **Mr. Massaquoi** (Liberia), Executive Director, Office of the War and Economic Crimes Court of Liberia, said that his country had played a pivotal role in crafting and adopting the Sustainable Development Goals and that it attached the highest importance to achieving them. Liberia welcomed the idea of reinforcing the 2030 Agenda to eradicate poverty in a time of multiple crises through the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions. The targets of Goal 16 were of particular relevance to post-conflict societies, such as Liberia, which, after two devastating civil wars, was seeking to provide closure and justice for victims of abuse and hold perpetrators of war crimes accountable. His Government had taken bold steps towards ending the culture of impunity and ensuring accountability, in keeping with the demands of the population.

10. **Mr. Šimonović** (Croatia), Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations, said that, with only six years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, transformative progress should be delivered at a

much greater speed and scale, so as not to leave the world in a worse condition for future generations. At the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in 2023, global leaders had reaffirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda. There was a collective responsibility to prevent conflict, respect and fulfil human rights, mainstream gender, empower youth, achieve economic growth, attain social inclusion and preserve the environment by forging a strong pact built on mutual trust and respect for the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The upcoming Summit of the Future and its outcome document entitled “A Pact for the Future” would provide an opportunity to agree on the actions required to create a more peaceful, inclusive and environmentally sustainable world that was governed by multilateralism and the rule of law. Croatia would continue to strengthen cooperation with other countries, encourage joint projects, share good practices and exchange experiences with all sustainable development stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels.

11. **Mr. Aldahhak** (Syrian Arab Republic), Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations, said that, despite the major challenges it faced, his country had recently presented its second voluntary national review. In 2020, the Syrian Arab Republic had elaborated a national development strategy for the period leading up to 2030, which had served to take national ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals in partnership with local civil society organizations and United Nations programmes and agencies. The Syrian Arab Republic had been making steady progress in the area of sustainable development up until 2011 but was currently struggling to get back on track while also working on rebuilding efforts. His country was faced with several major obstacles in that regard, stemming from the pillaging of national resources, the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the unilateral coercive measures imposed by the United States of America and the European Union. In addition, because the Syrian Arab Republic was deprived of official development assistance (ODA), there was a lack of financing to implement development projects.

12. Nonetheless, his Government remained committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and was hoping for assistance from its bilateral and multilateral partners, including in the form of technology transfers. The international community should champion the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which were incompatible with the policies of isolation and blockage that had been perpetrated against his country.

13. **Ms. Chan Valverde** (Costa Rica), Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, said that her country had relaunched its national pact to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and had recently presented its third voluntary national report. Costa Rica had made significant progress in that respect, compared with other countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region. For the 2030 Agenda to remain a viable road map towards transformation, Costa Rica required long-term public and private investment and a strategic multidisciplinary approach. The upcoming Summit of the Future would be a forum where Member States could take stock of their achievements and challenges. One challenge worth highlighting was the need for the international financial architecture to take the needs of low- and middle-income countries into account, so as to ensure economic inclusion and sustainability.

14. Global problems required global solutions. No State could solve the climate crisis, achieve low-cost energy transition or guarantee international peace and security on its own. Priorities, joint action and cooperation should be realigned to address global challenges and build a sustainable and peaceful future for all. The Summit of the Future should serve to inspire collective action and a real commitment to achieve sustainable development.

15. **Ms. Šebenik** (Slovenia), Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations, said that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was intrinsically linked to peace, security and human rights. Attaining gender parity must start with the United Nations and the representation of women among its leadership. Similarly, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus were more crucial than ever. As a current member of the Security Council, Slovenia paid particular attention to those interconnected elements when addressing situations on the Council's agenda. It condemned all forms of aggression and remained committed to a multilateral system that was based on law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

16. At the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in 2023, world leaders had called for a renewed impetus and accelerated actions for achieving the Goals. They had also underscored the need to address the financing gap for development. The upcoming Summit of the Future would provide an opportunity to address the interlinked challenges being faced currently, with a view to strengthening global partnerships and reinvigorating multilateralism.

17. **Ms. Frazier** (Malta), Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, said that the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, exacerbated by instability and conflict, had delayed and, in some cases, even reversed gains in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It was therefore crucial to maintain intergovernmental dialogue and ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders. Malta was strongly committed to advancing the 2030 Agenda and had adopted governance and legislative measures in that respect, together with a sustainable development strategy for the period leading up to 2050. In preparation for the presentation of its second voluntary national review in 2025, her Government had embarked on a process of broad, transparent and participatory stakeholder engagement.

18. As an island nation, Malta was dedicated to transitioning towards a decarbonized economy and ensuring climate resilience and had launched several initiatives to that end. It was working in partnership with small island developing States to build their capacities and provide them with technical expertise. Malta welcomed the historic agreement on a multidimensional vulnerability index for those States and had presented a climate vulnerability and resilience index at the recently held fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

19. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco), Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, said that his country had made significant progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in an unprecedented international context, as a result of its strong commitment and proactive sustainable development policies. Before the start of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020, Morocco had eradicated hunger, drastically reduced food insecurity and improved the nutritional status of children under the age of 5. That progress had been reversed by the combined effects of the pandemic and successive droughts. To strengthen resilience in the face of those crises, his Government had taken measures to subsidize some basic food products, combat the effects of drought and provide direct grants to low-income households.

20. With respect to climate change, the updated nationally determined contribution of Morocco was aimed at reducing greenhouse gases by approximately 45 per cent by 2030, which would require significant financing. In terms of consolidating the rule of law and democracy, Morocco had implemented a series of strategies seeking to ensure the independence and transparency of its justice system. His Government had also adopted integrated public policies to protect the

rights of children and persons with disabilities. Morocco was committed to North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation on the basis of solidarity, sharing and mutually beneficial partnerships.

21. **Mr. Gala López** (Cuba), Deputy Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, said that while the discussions had been focused on the upcoming Summit of the Future, his delegation could not speak about the future while the Palestinian people were being systematically and indiscriminately denied their right to exist and their right to the natural resources in the territories currently occupied by Israel. Furthermore, it was impossible to look towards the future without recognizing the limited progress and, in many cases, regression in international efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

22. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda could not be truly beneficial without the establishment of a fair and inclusive new world order to enable the closure of existing gaps between the North and the South and provide for the preferential and differentiated treatment of developing countries. There was an urgent need to reform the international financial architecture in a comprehensive and deep-rooted manner. The economic, financial and trade blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States remained its main obstacle to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. The limitations imposed under the blockade were arbitrary and unjustifiable and had a financial impact on the country. Unilateral coercive measures continued to impede a growing number of developing States from achieving sustainable development. However, Cuba remained committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and to cooperating with its international partners in that respect.

23. **Mr. Tun** (Myanmar), Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations, said that there were persistent inequalities between developed and developing countries in the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals. Myanmar was facing a significant setback in its own progress, owing to the attempted military coup that had left thousands of people dead and millions in need of humanitarian assistance. In addition to plunging a significant proportion of the population into poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, the military junta had completely destroyed the rule of law and created a safe haven for transnational organized crime. Achieving the Goals would require the establishment of lasting peace and the prevention of violent conflicts. Eradicating the military dictatorship and building a federal democratic union would create the conditions required to achieve such peace and build inclusive and accountable

institutions in Myanmar, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The international community should mobilize effective actions, coordination and support to avoid leaving the people of Myanmar behind.

24. **Mr. Mohamed Laghdaf** (Mauritania), Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations, said that his Government was working hard to eradicate extreme poverty and guarantee access to basic services through an effective governance model. With a view to combating and eliminating unemployment, his Government had established effective social safety nets and was providing vocational training to enhance the employability of young people. The national strategy of Mauritania for accelerated growth and shared prosperity had been harmonized with the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. Following the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023, national workshops had been launched to support the achievement of the Goals.

25. In Mauritania, both infant and child mortality and maternal mortality had been reduced between 2015 and 2020; social spending had been quadrupled between 2017 and 2021; the rates of access to drinking water and electricity had increased in 2023; and the share of renewable energy in the energy mix had increased to 43 per cent in 2022. Given the natural gas reserves and the continued development of green hydrogen in Mauritania, his Government had begun to phase out fossil fuels and was aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 11 per cent by 2030. In 2022, his Government had adopted a strategy to combat corruption.

26. **Ms. Narváez Ojeda** (Chile), Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, said that her Government demonstrated its firm commitment to the 2030 Agenda by aligning public policies with the Sustainable Development Goals. Chile had signed a United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period 2023–2026, with the objectives of ensuring strict respect for human rights, strengthening democracy and social cohesion, promoting equitable prosperity in the face of the planetary crisis and making progress towards gender equality. Given that the equality and empowerment of women and girls were fundamental requirements for sustainable development and peace, her Government sought to integrate a gender perspective into all aspects of its work.

27. Like many middle-income countries, Chile was facing challenges on its path towards sustainable development. While multilateral development banks could play a key role in addressing those challenges,

funding criteria should reflect the multidimensional needs of countries beyond per capita income. Effective multilateralism and strategic collaboration were needed more than ever to mobilize resources, share knowledge and technology and promote innovations to accelerate the achievement of the Goals.

28. **Mr. Pary Rodríguez** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations, said that the multiple crises facing the world, compounded by wars and geopolitical disputes, had exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and hindered economic growth in many countries, especially developing countries. Climate catastrophes were posing a major threat to human survival, deepening inequalities and pushing the most vulnerable countries into debt. Nevertheless, the 2030 Agenda should continue to be the priority of the United Nations. Any new initiatives should not replace the Sustainable Development Goals, but rather should complement them and accelerate their achievement. At the Summit of the Future, States should reaffirm their commitments to sustainable development, refocus their efforts and restore trust among themselves, taking into account their different needs. To turn their discussions into action, States should urgently reform the international financial system and uphold their development and climate finance commitments.

29. **Mr. Caccia** (Observer for the Holy See) said that the forthcoming Summit of the Future would provide an opportunity for States to reflect on the progress made towards the achievement of the Goals and to recalibrate efforts in the light of new challenges. The focus should be on how to attain integral human development for all. Concerted efforts, strengthened international cooperation, reinvigorated multilateralism and effective partnerships that transcended borders and ideologies were needed to address the challenges of poverty, hunger, climate change and conflict. At the Summit, States should seek not to reshape the 2030 Agenda, but rather to reaffirm it as the guiding framework for their shared commitment to people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships.

30. **Mr. Alqudah** (Jordan), First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations, said that, as a result of regional conflicts and the ensuing influx of refugees to Jordan, his country's population stood at 11.6 million people, one third of whom were refugees. Those challenges were compounded by the global supply chain and food crises, declining foreign investment and trade, high energy and shipping costs, global inflation and the debt crisis that was hindering his country's development.

31. Nevertheless, Jordan had made progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, having made the eradication of poverty a national priority, provided training and education for young people, and expanded health insurance and social security coverage for workers and their families. In addition, his Government had launched a cash transfer programme for poor households, which had contributed to expanding and increasing the effectiveness of social safety nets and to reducing poverty.

32. With a view to eradicating hunger, his Government had adopted national plans and strategies to promote agriculture and food security. His Government was aiming to make Jordan a regional centre of food security by increasing the capacity of grain silos, diversifying food supply chains and establishing a national seed bank. As a result, Jordan had moved up in the rankings of the Global Food Security Index, from 61st place in 2021 to 47th in 2023.

33. His Government sought to mainstream climate considerations in its national policies and plans with a view to promoting climate adaptation and strengthening resilience. Jordan had become a leader in the region in transitioning to alternative energy sources. It used crops that were resistant to drought and heat and had developed strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

34. **Mr. Babo Soares** (Timor-Leste), Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations, said that the twin shocks of Tropical Cyclone Seroja and the COVID-19 pandemic had hindered his country's efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2 and had slowed its socioeconomic development. The irreversible impacts of climate change continued to affect agricultural productivity in Timor-Leste, leading to food insecurity and poverty, displacing communities and exacerbating poverty and hunger.

35. In the period from 2017 to 2021, his Government had adopted a series of fiscal stimulus measures to support employment and incomes. Nevertheless, more than 20 per cent of people aged 15 years or above had been living on less than \$1.90 per day in Timor-Leste in 2021. Furthermore, the prevalence of stunting, underweight and wasting remained high in Timor-Leste compared with the rest of the Asia-Pacific region. To address those challenges, his Government had launched a national action plan for nutrition and food security.

36. During the current phase of State-building in Timor-Leste, domestic and international resources must be leveraged to finance sustainable development. Given its low levels of public revenue and declining overseas development assistance, Timor-Leste was in need of

new forms of financing, technology, South-South cooperation and technical support.

37. **Mr. Kridelka** (Belgium), Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, said that, in the face of the triple planetary crisis, States must remain committed to the 2030 Agenda. The proliferation of conflicts and fragility and the global regression in the rule of law and democracy were cause for deep concern. His delegation was determined to protect and promote rules-based multilateralism, with a strong United Nations at its centre, and international norms and standards in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

38. Sustainable and mutually beneficial long-term partnerships were needed to build trust. During its presidency of the Council of the European Union, Belgium had been working to advance the partnership between the European Union and the African Union on global health.

39. A green and just transition must be accelerated through the promotion of decent jobs, livelihoods, equality and social inclusion, which would contribute to the eradication of poverty. The transition to climate-neutral, resilient and nature-positive development must be fair and inclusive.

40. **Mr. de Rivi re** (France), Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, said that, given the overlapping crises and multiplying conflicts facing the world, it was more important than ever to condemn all forms of aggression and reiterate the urgent need to uphold international law. The international community should continue to be guided by the 2030 Agenda, which was a universal framework based on multilateralism, the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and respect for the rule of law. The Summit of the Future would enable States to tackle major challenges such as the reform of the international financial architecture, digital governance and the revitalization of the multilateral system.

41. The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals around the world depended on solidarity and investment in global public goods. France rejected the notion of a two-track world in which the countries that were facing the biggest challenges and vulnerabilities did not have the necessary means to respond to those challenges. France had thus launched, in 2023, the Paris Pact for People and the Planet, bringing together 57 partners from the North and the South who were committed to the dual goals of preserving the planet and combating poverty. The Pact had enabled progress in strengthening international economic governance and promoting financing for the Goals.

42. **Ms. Bryant** (Australia), Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, said that her country supported the increased participation of civil society in the voluntary national review process. The reviews were stronger when all relevant United Nations bodies, civil society organizations, private sector organizations and multilateral development banks were able to participate fully and meaningfully.

43. The ministerial declaration to be adopted at the close of the forum fell short of recognizing the centrality of gender equality in meeting the commitment made in the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. Important text on pathways to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and on the transition from fossil fuels had been omitted, which was especially disappointing given that Goal 13 was under review.

44. The Summit of the Future would be a once-in-a-generation opportunity for States to commit to meaningful reform of the United Nations system and to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of the world's largest single channel of development assistance. Australia championed reform of multilateral development banks and had called for expanded lending to the most vulnerable nations.

45. For more than 30 years, small island developing States had been calling for an improved understanding of vulnerability. The multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States was an important first step in that process.

46. **Mr. Fepuleai** (New Zealand), Deputy Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations, said that, as part of its efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1, his Government was directly raising incomes through taxation adjustments, giving households more money for essential food and housing. With regard to Goal 2, his Government continued to provide flexible and multi-year funding to United Nations organizations and other development partners that were responding to food insecurity globally.

47. In line with Goal 13, his Government was committed to limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius and to tackling the climate crisis by supporting adaptation and resilience. Through flexible finance programmes, his Government provided untapped financial resources to Pacific partner Governments for their own climate priorities.

48. With regard to Goal 16, New Zealand was ranked highly according to the worldwide governance indicators of the World Bank. In line with Goal 17, New Zealand took a partner-led approach to development assistance.

49. Goal 5, on gender equality, was connected with all the Goals; none of them could be achieved if half the population was left behind. His delegation would continue to call for strong and equitable gender outcomes.

50. **Mr. Vinhas** (Portugal), Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations, said that, with six years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, a renewed political commitment, global solidarity and financing were needed. The political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit had been a step in the right direction; the outcome document entitled “A Pact for the Future” to be adopted at the Summit of the Future should be a further step forward; and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development should be a turning point.

51. The results of his country’s second national voluntary review, presented in 2023, had been encouraging, with progress being made towards 61 per cent of the targets of the 2030 Agenda. Two municipalities of Portugal had also presented their voluntary local reviews in 2023. His Government had prepared a national road map for sustainable development with a view to improving the coordination of efforts to achieve the Goals and had invested in the localization of the Goals.

52. Together with the United Nations, his Government had developed capacity-building programmes on sustainable ocean governance and the blue economy and on digital innovation and transformation. Both programmes were aimed at supporting the achievement of the Goals in developing countries, especially small island developing States and landlocked developing countries. His country’s commitment to innovative and multi-stakeholder partnerships was demonstrated by its support for the global alliance against poverty and hunger proposed by Brazil in the Group of 20 and for debt-for-climate swaps.

53. **Mr. Stamatekos** (Greece), Deputy Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, said that his country had demonstrated its commitment to sustainable development across the economic, environmental and social sectors in its voluntary national reviews of 2018 and 2022. With regard to Sustainable Development Goal 13, his Government had exemplified its dedication to green and digital transformation through its “GR-eco Islands” initiative, under which priority was given to renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable waste and water management, pollution reduction, electrified transport, and sustainable agriculture and tourism.

54. The achievement of the Goals required a holistic, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. However, sustainable development was severely underfunded, and ODA, although at record levels, was still falling short. All actors, including the private sector, must therefore be mobilized to foster innovative financing solutions. Reform of the global financial architecture was urgently needed to provide better access to capital for developing countries. Recent crises had highlighted the need for effective multilateralism, anchored in the United Nations system and bolstered by respect for the rule of law, human rights and international law. The Summit of the Future would provide a timely opportunity for States to choose a path of peace and stability and to reorient policies and the world economy towards sustainable development.

55. **Mr. Chala** (Ethiopia), Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, said that his Government had incorporated the implementation of the 2030 Agenda into its national development plans, with primary focus given to improving the livelihoods of citizens living in rural areas. His Government had also adopted comprehensive policies in sectors that were crucial for poverty eradication, including renewable and affordable clean energy, education, health, agriculture and natural resources management.

56. Ethiopia was committed to optimizing the use of its natural resources in its relentless efforts to combat poverty and believed in using shared resources in a sustainable manner, guided by the internationally accepted principles of fair, equitable and reasonable utilization characterized by collaboration. Ethiopia generated almost all its electricity from renewable sources, mainly hydropower, and shared that energy resource with its neighbours. His Government was seeking to harness its renewable energy resources to provide electricity to the 60 per cent of Ethiopian citizens who still did not have access.

57. His Government allocated an average of 25 per cent of the national budget to education every year and had increased investment in primary education and school feeding programmes. To protect vulnerable populations in rural and urban areas, his Government implemented social protection schemes and emergency relief measures. As part of its climate action, his Government had planted billions of trees and was promoting agricultural development and food security. Its wheat production initiative had enabled the country to stop importing wheat.

58. **Ms. Hachem** (Lebanon), Deputy Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations, said

that her country was experiencing a multifaceted economic and humanitarian crisis that was hindering its sustainable development. Lebanon continued to host over 1.5 million displaced Syrians. The Israeli aggression since 8 October 2023 had affected key economic sectors in Lebanon. The use of white phosphorus against her country in contravention of international humanitarian law had caused health, environmental and agricultural disasters, undermining the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

59. Notwithstanding those enormous challenges, Lebanon reaffirmed its commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Her Government had implemented programmes to support the poorest and most vulnerable Lebanese households. Having made notable progress in integrating climate change considerations into policies and strategies, Lebanon was on track to achieve Goal 2. Climate change education had been incorporated into the national curriculum for pre-university general education. The contribution of Lebanese women to efforts to tackle climate change and to protect women and girls during emergencies, wars and natural disasters had been enhanced through the national strategy for women.

60. Recognizing the importance of rebuilding State institutions, her Government had adopted an Act on combating corruption in the public sector. Her Government was also working to build data and national statistical systems through global partnerships. Many investment funds and national initiatives were being established to encourage innovative technology start-ups.

61. **Mr. Niang** (Senegal), Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations, said that, if current trends continued, 575 million people would still be living in extreme poverty in 2030. Sub-Saharan Africa was currently hosting 60 per cent of the world's extreme poor, compared with 13 per cent in 1990, and 20 per cent of the population of Africa was suffering from hunger. States had a collective responsibility to take bold but fair measures to uphold the commitments they had made during the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and under various climate and financing for development platforms.

62. Despite its limited resources, Senegal was committed to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. His Government had launched a national cash transfer programme to provide relief for nearly 400,000 households, protect vulnerable groups and combat extreme poverty. Through its food sovereignty strategy covering the period 2024–2029, his Government would allocate \$8 billion to stimulate

agricultural and horticultural production with a view to reducing imports. Senegal would be able to generate 40 per cent of its electricity from clean energy by 2030 thanks to the Just Energy Transition Partnership that it had joined in 2023.

63. Sustainable solutions to the problems of debt and access to credit were urgently needed. It was unacceptable that many developing countries, particularly African ones, incurred borrowing costs that were up to eight times higher than in developed countries. Such an obstacle hindered the achievement of the Goals and must be overcome through common efforts.

64. **Mr. Scappini Ricciardi** (Paraguay), Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations, said that his country was making great efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The national poverty level had decreased by 2.9 per cent in 2023. His Government had adopted an Act on eradicating hunger in schools and the education system. It was also taking climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and seeking to strengthen State institutions. In addition, efforts were being made in the areas of health, education, employment and social protection to promote the role of women and the participation and leadership of young people.

65. Nevertheless, to be able to make significant progress, developing countries urgently needed more support, financial resources and fiscal space, which would require reform of the international financial architecture, expanded funding for investment in the achievement of the Goals, the provision of technical support and the establishment of new partnerships. The Summit of the Future would be an opportunity for the international community to take specific steps to enable developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and countries in special situations, to achieve the highest possible level of sustainable development by 2030.

66. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan), Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, said that, like other developing countries, Pakistan was facing numerous challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. His country's efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic had been hampered by the triple crises of food, fuel and finance, which had been further compounded by the devastating floods of 2022. Nevertheless, his Government remained committed to accelerating the achievement of the Goals and had thus incorporated the 2030 Agenda into its national development policies and plans.

67. In line with the principle of reaching the furthest behind first, his Government was implementing a development scheme to lift the 20 poorest districts in the country out of poverty. To tackle climate change, his Government was implementing 25 projects aimed at restoring the ecological health of the Indus River basin and had committed to producing 60 per cent of energy from renewable sources by 2030. His Government had taken significant steps taken to enhance the country's early warning capacity, including updating the national flood protection plan.

68. The Sustainable Development Goals financing gap stood at over \$4 trillion. The adaptation needs of developing countries were estimated at between \$215 billion and \$387 billion annually until 2030. More financing and more fiscal space must be unlocked for developing countries. ODA commitments must be scaled up and fulfilled. The international financial architecture must be reformed to make it more equitable and more responsive to the needs of the South. The North-South digital divide must be bridged to ensure that developing countries had equitable access to new and emerging technologies.

69. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives), Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations, said that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, adopted less than two months previously, must be integrated into United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, country programme documents and common country analyses to ensure its early implementation. The United Nations Sustainable Development Group should update relevant guidelines to ensure that those documents were updated in a timely manner. The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda must also be integrated into national development plans. The entire United Nations system should work with small island developing States towards that Agenda's implementation. Despite promises to facilitate the access of small island developing States to finance for climate adaptation, such States had received only about 1 per cent of global climate finance between 2003 and 2021. Promises of support must be translated into action.

70. During the high-level political forum in 2024, the only meeting dedicated to small island developing States had lasted less than 1 hour and 45 minutes, which was not a sufficient amount of time for a meaningful discussion. The time allocated to the small island developing States at the high-level political forum should be increased to at least half a day.

71. **Mr. Thapa** (Nepal), Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, said that his country had

made significant progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the areas of poverty reduction, food security, healthcare, education, gender equality, sustainable cities and environmental conservation. Thus far, Nepal had achieved 41.7 per cent of the targets. Nevertheless, global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and the impacts of climate change were having an immense bearing on its efforts, decelerating its hard-earned achievements.

72. With a view to urgently accelerating the achievement of the Goals, his Government was focused on promoting decent jobs, social protection, food systems transformation, digital innovation, women's empowerment and inclusive societies, and on tackling the effects of climate change. For Nepal to achieve those common goals, stronger and elevated support from its development partners was needed, and its huge gap in financing for the Goals of \$5.8 billion annually must be bridged. The early implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal stimulus, the fulfilment of ODA commitments and the mobilization of climate finance for countries that were disproportionately affected by climate change were more crucial than ever. His Government's efforts towards digital transformation must be complemented by infrastructure creation, investment, capacity-building and technology transfer.

73. **Mr. Yıldız** (Türkiye), Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations, said that the ongoing crises, challenges and conflicts facing the world called for multilateralism and international solidarity. Strong multilateral institutions, a reformed United Nations and effective global governance mechanisms were essential for managing global geopolitical challenges in the new era of multipolarity. The high-level political forum must be used in the best and most effective manner to review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and keep the Sustainable Development Goals on track. Global financial institutions, rules and frameworks should be reformed to respond to the current political and economic realities and to enable developing countries to obtain the resources that they needed. The Summit of the Future would provide a fresh opportunity to strengthen multilateralism in support of sustainable development.

74. His Government took a holistic approach to the Goals by integrating them into national plans and sectoral strategies. Its national development plan was aimed at promoting stable growth and a strong economy, competitive production with green and digital transformation, qualified human capital, strong families, a healthy society, disaster-resistant living spaces, a sustainable environment and democratic good governance based on justice. His Government had

developed an ambitious plan to triple the country's renewable energy capacity by 2053 and was leading the way in promoting zero-waste initiatives.

75. **Mr. Cho Hyunwoo** (Republic of Korea), Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, said that, to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, development finance needed to be diversified. ODA would continue to be essential for development finance. His country had therefore increased its provision of ODA by 31 per cent compared with the previous year. Domestic resource mobilization, private sector investment and innovative financing models should be strengthened to enhance the impact of ODA. The reform of the financial architecture to align financing with the Goals would also be crucial. As the Co-Chair of the International Financial Architecture Working Group of the Group of 20, the Republic of Korea would continue to seek inclusive, innovative and diverse ways to finance the Goals.

76. His Government was working closely with its partners to advance digital transformation, including through digital capacity-building, technology transfer and investments in science, technology and innovation. In May 2024, the Republic of Korea had hosted a summit on artificial intelligence. Participants had adopted a declaration on global governance of artificial intelligence, with a view to promoting safe, innovative and inclusive use of artificial intelligence and other digital technologies that could accelerate sustainable development while leaving no one behind.

77. Multi-stakeholder partnerships must be strengthened to enhance the effectiveness of development. As a founding member of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, the Republic of Korea would continue to promote active and effective partnerships.

78. **Ms. Azzi** (Algeria), First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations, said that her Government had incorporated the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want into its development policies and strategies. As a result, Algeria had achieved significant progress towards the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, including those currently under review.

79. With a view to eradicating poverty, which was a development priority of Algeria, her Government was committed to reducing the unemployment rate, especially among young people and women, to maintaining the national social security system, to raising the purchasing power of citizens and to providing housing. In 2023, the multidimensional

poverty rate in Algeria had been reduced thanks to the implementation of a development programme aimed at meeting the needs of citizens through the provision of free and universal access to education and healthcare.

80. Her Government had prioritized the provision of safe drinking water. As a result, more than 97 per cent of the population was covered by water supply networks and more than 95 per cent by drainage channels. To ensure healthy and adequate nutrition for the people, her Government had made food security a strategic objective and had adopted a sustainable agricultural policy aimed at raising agricultural production. Algeria had been ranked first in Africa in terms of food security by the World Food Programme during the period 2018–2020 and aspired to achieve full self-sufficiency in grain production by 2025.

81. **Ms. Woodward** (United Kingdom), Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, said that her Government had made tackling global poverty, instability and the climate and nature crisis a central mission, which it would accomplish in genuine partnership the global South. The Sustainable Development Goals that were currently under review were at the heart of her Government's domestic and international agendas, which were focused on mitigating climate change and biodiversity loss; delivering economic transformation, green growth and jobs to lift people out of poverty; preventing and ending conflicts; delivering humanitarian assistance to those who needed it the most; unlocking more climate and development finance; mobilizing the private sector to help achieve the Goals through investment; supporting faster reform of the global financial system; tackling unsustainable debt and illicit finance; and empowering women and girls.

82. Greater multilateral action and partnerships were needed to bring the achievement of the Goals back on track. The Summit of the Future, the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the forthcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system would provide opportunities to ensure that the United Nations was best positioned to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

83. **The observer for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance** said that weak or undermined democratic institutions threatened the achievement of not only Sustainable Development Goal 16 but also the whole 2030 Agenda. In a recent report, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance had highlighted clear connections between

Goal 16 and the other Goals, especially those on poverty reduction, zero hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, economic growth, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and climate action. Key findings of the report included the following: the countries with stronger institutions and less corruption had better poverty reduction outcomes; the rule of law and accountable participatory governance enhanced environmental oversight and climate policy implementation, with democracies generally performing better in climate change mitigation; and women's participation in decision-making and peace processes correlated to reduced violence and longer-lasting peace, and their participation in political processes led to better gender equality outcomes.

84. **Ms. Brandt** (Kingdom of the Netherlands), Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, said that, to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, focus should be placed on the Goals that served as catalysts for the achievement of all the Goals. For example, the empowerment of women and girls had been shown to have huge potential to drive progress towards the achievement of other Goals. With its feminist foreign policy, her Government was aiming to contribute to accelerated efforts to achieve the Goals. Focus should also be placed on digital transformation and sustainable transitions to support emerging markets. The private sector, in particular the micro-, small and medium-sized enterprise sector, was a crucial driver of economic development. Her Government's initiatives to promote financial inclusion and sustainable value chains and improve the business climate were thus aimed at supporting the private sector. Recognizing that the challenges facing States were interconnected, her Government had developed a programme to reduce potential negative spillover effects of its actions on other nations. When implementing policies, States must take into account the needs and interests of future generations.

85. **Ms. Nasrawi** (Kingdom of the Netherlands), speaking as a youth delegate, said that she was both aware of the threats of the triple planetary crisis and afraid of its impact on the future. With the Sustainable Development Goal on climate action under review, it was vital to keep alive the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and to mainstream climate justice throughout all efforts by ensuring distributional, procedural and recognition equity.

86. **The observer for the Sovereign Order of Malta** said that the Global Hunger Index for 2023 had revealed that little progress had been made in reducing hunger

since 2015; the 2023 score of 18.3 had been only slightly better than the 2015 score of 19.1. The impacts of extreme climate events were multifaceted, contributing to both food scarcity and malnutrition and to the rising number of forcibly displaced persons, which was further exacerbated by the increase in civil, inter-State and international conflicts. It was therefore difficult to see a clear path towards eradicating poverty. In view of the fast-approaching Summit of the Future, Member States must do their utmost to end conflicts and to protect those vulnerable to the effects of conflict and climate change.

87. **The observer for the International Development Law Organization** said that the rule of law helped to ensure fairness, accountability and transparency, and was thus critical to rebuilding public trust. People-centred justice systems protected the rights of the least powerful and empowered them to participate in decision-making. In that regard, there was a need to invest in women and youth as agents of change. Progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 contributed to the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Effective laws and accessible and accountable institutions were needed to achieve all the Goals. Shared concerns such as climate change and the regulation of frontier technology, including artificial intelligence, required solutions that were based on the rule of law. They also required fair and efficient mechanisms that incentivized concerted global action, while balancing current needs with the interests of future generations. Innovation must not give rise to new forms of discrimination.

88. **The observer for the International Organization of la Francophonie** said that the International Organization of la Francophonie provided tailored support to its member countries in their national efforts to combat climate change and reduce poverty and inequalities linked to the climate and environmental crisis. Through its flagship project entitled "Support for environment- and climate-related structural transformations", the Organization was seeking to support the participation of member countries in international negotiations and to improve their access to sustainable financing. The Organization had also been developing strategic partnerships in those areas. Its joint efforts with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund had facilitated access to relevant information in French, the acquisition of knowledge, the provision of assistance in decision-making and the financing of projects to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable women and young people.

89. **The observer for the Inter-Parliamentary Union** said that the grim outlook for the Sustainable Development Goals was due mostly to a lack of will. The world had plenty of financial and material resources to lift people out of poverty, but those resources were concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, with too much power vested in self-interested groups that cared little about the common good. Much more investment was needed in Sustainable Development Goal 16, given the lack of progress towards, or even regression on, some of its targets. The Inter-Parliamentary Union was working to strengthen parliaments as the core governance structure in each country and to ensure that they were more representative of women, young people and other groups and more capable of holding Governments to account. At the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union was seeking to bring the voices of parliamentarians closer to the institutions that were dealing with global governance.

90. **The observer for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)** said that, in parallel to the mid-term review of the Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations in 2023, INTERPOL had conducted a review of its seven Global Policing Goals, which had been developed in 2017 to enable the global law enforcement community to respond to the evolving security landscape in a manner that supported the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The current review of Goal 16 was crucial; that Goal not only cut across all seven Global Policing Goals but was also a crucial enabler of the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals. Old and new challenges to peace and security, including those posed by rapid technological advancements, demanded a unified response. INTERPOL was therefore working to build a robust global security architecture by facilitating police cooperation.

91. **The observer for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature** said that, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the world's food and water systems must be transformed to conserve nature while safeguarding the well-being of current and future generations. Nature-based solutions were essential to reaching the Goals and would play a critical role in addressing biodiversity loss, safeguarding livelihoods and achieving mitigation objectives. Equitable, fair and environmentally oriented governance combined with effective management was urgently needed to achieve Goal 13. Member States were urged to swiftly ratify the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction. As a science-based organization,

the International Union for the Conservation of Nature was committed to informing policymaking through its leading knowledge and tools.

92. **The observer for the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions** said that the Sustainable Development Goals were at the centre of the work of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions to assist Governments in drafting, implementing and evaluating national strategies. Addressing inequalities was key to staying consistent with the vision and spirit of the 2030 Agenda. Without broader and inclusive growth, social justice or decent work, there would be no better future for the world. Large economic entities should be mobilized to cover the investment gap in key sectors in the countries most in need. The political commitment to the 2030 Agenda must be renewed, with a focus on crucial areas such as the green and digital transitions and food security.

93. **The observer for the International Organization for Migration** said that, in the face of global transformations and phenomena such as demographic change, digitalization, poverty and the climate crisis, migration should be seen not as a problem but rather as part of the solution. Although migrants were often among those left furthest behind, they were also drivers of development, well-being and growth for people and the planet. Migrants were estimated to represent about 3.6 per cent of the world's population and to generate 9.4 per cent of global gross domestic product. Migrant remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries were often far greater than foreign direct investment and ODA. Migrants contributed to poverty reduction and could be catalysts for sustainable development. Safe, orderly and regular migration pathways could boost sustainable development outcomes.

94. **The observer for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity** said that the loss of biodiversity threatened food and water security and sustainable economic growth, and undermined efforts to eradicate poverty. Investing in biodiversity was therefore not merely an environmental concern but also an economic and social necessity. States were urged to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to enable them to protect and restore nature, prosper with nature, fairly share nature's benefits and invest and collaborate for nature. By supporting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in local communities, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, the Framework contributed to the revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development.

95. **The observer for the International Trade Centre** said that the Sustainable Development Goals under review were all critically linked to the mission and mandate of the International Trade Centre. Guided by Goal 1, the Centre had developed initiatives to support the participation of women, young people and vulnerable groups such as refugees and Indigenous Peoples in business and trade. Nearly 80 per cent of the Centre's work was conducted in least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. In support of Goal 2, the Centre was helping small-holder farmers to move up the value chain and developing alliances to help farmers become more competitive and adopt climate-smart agricultural methods. For Goal 13, the Centre was making significant efforts to support the green transition, including helping micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to adopt more environmentally sustainable policies.

96. **The observer for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS** said that the HIV response was one of the few targets on which progress was being made and was thus a success story for multilateralism. It could serve to drive progress across the 2030 Agenda, providing a practical solution for how to tackle common challenges by mobilizing strong political commitment, bringing together multiple stakeholders, following science, addressing inequalities, protecting the human rights of all and allowing communities to lead. Despite the inspiring progress, AIDS remained one of the deadliest pandemics. Continued political and financial commitment was essential to accelerate efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goal commitment of ending AIDS by 2030 and to sustain gains into the future. Ending AIDS would help to accelerate progress across all the Goals.

97. **The observer for the International Telecommunication Union** said that game-changing digital solutions such as artificial intelligence could accelerate progress on 70 per cent of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. The International Telecommunication Union was redoubling its efforts to bring the 2.6 billion people around the world who were still offline into the digital revolution. The Union's strategies for achieving the Goals were to ensure that digital inclusion matched the pace of digital transformation, to strike the right balance between the benefits and risks of emerging technologies without stifling innovation and to promote universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.

98. **The observer for the Grace Leadership Foundation, Inc.** said that women formed the backbone of society and families, bearing and caring for children.

They were also natural entrepreneurs who supported the economy. However, women and girls were frequently neglected and marginalized by the same people with whom they bore children and by their country leaders. As a result, they were pushed into poverty, which was often prolonged and exacerbated by a lack of accountability and equity. Despite widespread calls to expand opportunities for women and girls, large numbers of them continued to be deprived of their basic human rights and to face oppression and marginalization in their daily lives. Change was needed to increase equity for all women and girls.

99. **The Co-Chair of the major groups and other stakeholders coordination mechanism** said that the high-level political forum had not yet become the policy platform needed to advance the 2030 Agenda. Its conceptual framework and architecture must evolve to meet the high aspirations required for meaningful progress. The same business-as-usual approach had been taken in the negotiations on the outcome document entitled "A Pact for the Future" to be adopted at the Summit of the Future, which was neither ambitious nor responsive and was certainly not transformative. The Pact must deliver beyond the promised transformation, upholding the essence of the Charter of the United Nations, which began with people, not Governments. Multilateralism should be inclusive and responsive rather than networked and should ensure democratic participation across processes. Such an approach was essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals with long-lasting results.

100. **The observer for Vaagdhara** said that Indigenous communities across the globe provided invaluable insight into sustainable development through their traditional practices, knowledge and approaches rooted in reverence for nature and centred on community. Their practices promoted sustainability and resilience, which were essential for reinforcing the 2030 Agenda amid crises. Their lifestyle and cultural values led to self-sufficiency, less dependence on external sources and enhanced agricultural practices, ensuring their food and livelihood security. Obstacles to the participation of Indigenous communities in programmes, strategies and policies must be overcome. Indigenous communities should be recognized for their solutions to global challenges such as poverty, inequality and vulnerability. Their traditional practices could contribute to advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

101. **The observer for the Asia-Pacific regional civil society engagement mechanism** said that civil society had played a key role in advancing the principles of peace and security, human rights and sustainable development and thus deserved credibility, unlike

certain actors that had been legitimized through the networked multilateral approach despite their histories of eroding those very principles. In the face of depleting public financing in key strategic sectors enforced by the multilateral banks, increasing debt distress inflicted through International Monetary Fund programmes and violations of labour and environmental standards enabled by the World Trade Organization trade regimes, the principle of policy coherence should be applied to ensure consistency across institutional mandates for sustainable development. With global military expenditure exceeding \$2 trillion while ODA stood at a mere \$200 billion, and with the development financing shortfall of \$4.2 trillion, much more than the proposed \$500 billion Sustainable Development Goal stimulus was needed. The divide between the North and the South should be addressed in the Pact for the Future.

102. The observer for Sigma Theta Tau, International Honorary Society of Nursing, Inc. said that the security of healthcare workers was crucial for ensuring uninterrupted service delivery and maintaining public health and safety in crisis situations. In the interconnected world, the disruption of healthcare services in one region could have far-reaching consequences for global health security. Attacks on hospitals resulted in declines in routine vaccinations, hindering efforts to control epidemics. The global shortage of healthcare workers was exacerbating the vulnerability of health systems in crisis. Member States should enforce stronger protections for healthcare workers and implement effective measures to secure healthcare facilities from attacks, including by establishing safe zones around such facilities.

103. The observer for the Economic Commission for Europe regional civil society engagement mechanism said that the Sustainable Development Goals were significantly off track, due in part to multiple crises, the COVID-19 pandemic and wars. The Pact for the Future, which was currently being negotiated without the involvement of the major groups and other stakeholders, could provide the means to accelerate the achievement of the Goals. However, nothing could be achieved without the full involvement of civil society organizations, which served as the voices of the people, especially the most marginalized and excluded. From small women's groups in remote villages to all the major groups and other stakeholders, civil society organizations would be essential contributors to the actions in the Pact.

104. The observer for the Fondazione di Ricerca Scientifica ed Umanistica Antonio Meneghetti said that the share of the world population living in urban areas was projected to increase to 68 per cent by 2050.

The shift of populations from rural to urban areas was likely to increase poverty and worsen living conditions. With a focus on the fields of higher education, science and gender equality, the Fondazione di Ricerca Scientifica ed Umanistica Antonio Meneghetti was working to engage multiple stakeholders in the development of rural regions and thus drive progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, in the rural village of Lizori, Italy, the Foundation had been providing, in collaboration with higher education institutions, workshops for architects, engineers and artists on enhancing the historical and cultural heritage of rural regions. Initiatives to regain cultural heritage should be incorporated into education models to help villages to escape stagnation.

105. The observer for the farmers major group said that, given the disproportionate impact of climate change on the poor, Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 13 were closely related for the survival of humankind. Climate action must therefore become an economic asset. That would entail providing financial compensation to farmers for climate-friendly practices and charging polluters for harmful climate impacts, in line with the principle of true cost accounting. Financial compensation for climate friendly and resilient agricultural practices would generate significant income for the people living and working in rural areas and enable the eradication of poverty among small-scale farming families while protecting the climate.

106. The observer for Bright Light Projects said that reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises required a targeted, inclusive and practical approach based on sustainability, economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Investing in food production start-ups with innovative agricultural practices would sustainably increase food security and mitigate climate change. Developing sustainable waste management systems in local communities would lead to direct employment. Promoting community-scale irrigation would enable farmers to transition from diesel-based pumping to affordable and reliable solar irrigation systems.

107. Solving the paradoxes of development in Africa required a targeted, action-oriented and accountable approach. Africa lost about \$600 billion annually; 50 per cent of Africa was without power; and 50 per cent was food insecure. Botswana and Namibia had invested more than half of their substantial pension funds abroad owing to the lack of institutions and capital markets to manage the risk of such investments. Some 60 per cent of the gross domestic product of Africa was used in debt

servicing, more than the combined investments in education and healthcare systems.

108. **The observer for ChildFund International** said that the climate crisis magnified the risk of children's exposure to violence due to food insecurity, forced displacement or child labour. Children's rights must therefore be protected by ensuring their meaningful participation in international dialogues on the climate crisis. The ministerial declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development should reflect the principles and solutions committed to by Member States for the realization of children's rights in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The following targeted actions could help to reduce children's exposure to violence: improving mechanisms for measuring, monitoring and reporting on the children hit the hardest by the climate crisis; upholding children's rights to an adequate standard of living, to protection and to health and education; ending the hunger crisis by supporting communities, especially those exposed to the climate crisis, and empowering them through early detection programmes, employment opportunities and healthcare; enabling children to participate in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts; and empowering children to collectively work towards a sustainable future with access to justice.

109. **The observer for the stakeholder group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons** said that the systemic barriers experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in the social, economic and political spheres were impairing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the Summit of the Future, States should avoid diverting the focus and political will away from the Goals, allowing corporations to unduly influence the multilateral order and undermining the prospects for just and sustainable development. The localization of the Goals and sustainable development processes should be organized and implemented by and for the people. All groups of stakeholders, especially the most marginalized ones, should therefore be included in decision-making processes.

110. **The observer for the stakeholder group of persons with disabilities** said that the commitment made by States to guaranteeing the active participation of persons with disabilities in sustainable development processes should be reflected in the Pact for the Future. At the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, States should set specific objectives for the financing of inclusive development. Accessibility for and the autonomy of persons with disabilities should be guaranteed through assistive technologies, artificial intelligence and inclusive infrastructure. The generation

and analysis of data disaggregated by disability were vital for the development of inclusive public policies.

111. **The observer for "Coup de pousse" Chaîne de l'espoir Nord-Sud (CDP-CENS)** said that, according to a report by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), more than 340 million women and girls would still be living in extreme poverty in 2030. To end poverty in all its forms everywhere, women must be included in all aspects of decision-making processes and poverty must be addressed through a gender lens. To achieve sustainable development, the stereotypes limiting the full participation of women in education must be addressed. Investments must also be made to ensure the full financing of the Sustainable Development Goals. Eradicating poverty was vital for the achievement of sustainable development and would require a focus on local circumstances, as there was no one-size-fits-all solution.

112. **The observer for the scientific and technological communities major group** said that, in its position paper for the 2024 high-level political forum, the group had provided examples of good initiatives to build upon to make progress towards a sustainable and resilient future for all. The paper contained the following key messages: integrated approaches across global agendas were needed; technology and innovation must be harnessed to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda; integrated scientific knowledge and engineering solutions should be leveraged for the accelerated achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; sustained collaborations through participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches were needed for the effective achievement of the Goals; and capacities must be built by training scientists and engineers, promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and providing life-long learning for all on dealing with new technologies.

113. **The observer for Corporación Cultural Nueva Acrópolis Chile** said that the World Economic Forum predicted that over half of high-skill engineering tasks would be automated by 2025. Careful consideration must be given to that issue to ensure that technological innovation did not undermine human dignity. Dehumanization produced not only poverty but also violence. In the age of artificial intelligence, philosophy was crucial for developing humanity and cultivating virtues in humans that machines could never replicate. Philosophy addressed both material and moral poverty, driving transformation through deeper understanding. Corporación Cultural Nueva Acrópolis Chile was committed to advancing the 2030 Agenda through philosophical education and ethical volunteering.

114. **The observer for Together 2030** said that, at the Summit of the Future, Member States should strengthen their commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, not depart from them, and forge a bright new reality for the United Nations system and the world. However, they had done no such thing in the current draft of the Pact for the Future, which was being negotiated behind closed doors. Every future generation would pass through childhood. The voices of children were therefore essential for shaping the future world. In attempting to draw a clean line between the current and future generations in the draft Pact, Member States were failing the children of the future. Children should be mainstreamed across all chapters of the Pact.

115. **The observer for the Africa Faith and Justice Network** said that reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty required an evaluation of the emerging threats to full security in Africa. Since the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals, land-grabbing in Africa by predatory multinational organizations had almost doubled. Foreign nations, companies and individuals were purchasing vast tracts of land for extremely low prices to scale up food production for developed countries, exacerbating hunger in the host nations and disrupting their progress towards the achievement of the Goals. Poverty could not be eradicated by dispossessing people of their land in the name of global food production. Leaders should adopt a whole-of-society approach to the Goals, recognizing the devastating consequences and serious threat of land-grabbing in Africa.

116. **The observer for the workers and trade unions major group** said that, to accelerate efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, Member States should build a new social contract based on the following pillars: the creation of decent and climate-friendly jobs to reach full employment across the world; the provision of a living wage to ensure a dignified life for all and to revitalize economies; the establishment of a labour protection floor for all workers; equality and equal pay for work of equal value; universal social protection; and inclusion through the promotion of social justice, democracy and dialogue both nationally and internationally.

117. **The observer for the American Psychological Association** said that psychology addressed the root causes of many global challenges, including health, climate change, inequality, poverty and security. Psychological science offered preventative measures for eradicating poverty and its harms to mental and physical health. Crisis-driven responses were expensive and ineffective; Governments should instead employ the population health framework to pre-emptively address

the root causes of poverty. Public policies based on behavioural science could provide the social protections needed to alleviate poverty and promote health equity.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.