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Chairman: Mr. Suazo (Honduras)
later: Mr. Kavan (Vice-Chairman) (Czech Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (A/57/55, A/57/132, A/57/84-S/2002/645, A/57/202, A/57/329, A/57/331, A/57/343, A/57/350, A/57/422-S/2002/1064)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/57/3 (Part I and II), A/57/44, A/57/460, A/57/497, A/CONF.199/20)

1. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in August and September 2002 (A/CONF.199/20), said that the primary purpose of the Summit had been to review implementation of Agenda 21 and identify what needed to be done to strengthen the process of implementation. Its focus had been on clarifying the goals, targets, timetables, resource commitments and technology, in order to translate the broad orientations of Agenda 21 into very concrete programmes. The Summit had been unique in the way it had sought to engage with civil society partners not only in the main conference but also in a range of meetings outside it. Substantial progress had been made in terms of clear commitments, targets and timetables in the five key areas identified by the Secretary-General: water, energy, health, agriculture and biological diversity. The Summit had produced a much more detailed programme of work than had existed in Agenda 21 in certain areas: energy, where there had been a fairly strong commitment urgently to increase the share of renewable energy and to provide energy to the energy-poor; water and sanitation; agriculture, particularly in respect of desertification and extending the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to cover desertification projects; health and biological diversity; oceans; and natural disaster mitigation. The follow-up process should maintain the pressure for implementation and ensure that the resources committed in partnerships were actually provided and used for the purposes intended, that the agenda was connected with the Millennium development goals, and that the resources committed at the International Conference on Financing for Development were available for the purposes agreed in Johannesburg.

2. The meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2003, would have to be of

an essentially planning rather than substantive nature. It would have to focus on restructuring the Commission to ensure that it was able to maintain the momentum of commitment beyond Johannesburg. There should be agreement on a multi-year programme of work in order to accommodate a diversity of concerns and to avoid putting everything on the agenda every year. The Commission would have to decide whether to continue with the thematic approach or whether, and how, to organize itself more around the goals and tasks identified at the World Summit. Consideration should also be given to ways of maintaining the connection established at Johannesburg between global and regional processes. Exchanges of experience could be even more fruitful at the regional level than at the global level, and it was important to establish a connection between the two processes in terms of Commission meetings. Another decision to be taken concerned the role which the Commission could play in facilitating the various types of synergies involved in partnerships between the public sector and non-State partners.

3. Within the United Nations system, it was important to emphasize very strongly the link between the central processes and the operational parts of the system. It was necessary to re-examine the nature of existing inter-agency collaborative arrangements and to connect the goals, targets and timetables agreed in Johannesburg with the country-level coordination processes which had been set up. Such issues were already being addressed.

4. What had been agreed in Johannesburg was an agenda not just for developing countries but also for the developed countries in terms not only of the support they would provide but also of sustainable consumption and production. The very concrete commitments regarding sustainable consumption and production were among the most important advances made at the Summit.

5. Finally, he referred to the concerns which had been expressed about certain typographical innovations in the report. They were mostly of an editorial nature, but he gave an undertaking that the report would be issued exactly in the form in which it had been approved, even if that meant issuing a revised version.

6. **Mr. Dengo** (Chief, Water, Natural Resources and Small Island Developing States Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs) introduced the report of

the Secretary-General on activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003 (A/57/132). The Year would be launched at United Nations Headquarters on 12 December 2002. Within the Organization, the activities for the Year were being coordinated jointly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNESCO and UNEP. The objectives of the Year were the raising of awareness and the promotion of action regarding the importance of the sustainable use and management of freshwater resources. The Year was ideally timed in that it followed the International Year of Mountains and the World Summit on Sustainable Development and preceded the Third World Water Forum, to be held in Kyoto, Japan, in March 2003. Furthermore, the United Nations would be launching the World Water Development Report in 2003.

7. In such an ambitious undertaking, with a short time frame, the full commitment of all stakeholders was needed. The active engagement and participation of Governments, civil society and the private sector were crucial to ensuring that partnership initiatives pursued the Year's objectives well beyond 2003. Governments were encouraged to set up national committees and designate focal points to facilitate and promote the activities of the Year, and interested Permanent Missions to the United Nations were encouraged to convene an informal focus group to support the activities of the Year in New York and to translate them to their own countries. It was also important for Member States, national and international organizations and the private sector to mobilize voluntary contributions. He expressed the Secretariat's gratitude to Governments which had already provided or pledged support for the Year, among them the Governments of the Netherlands, Singapore and Tajikistan.

8. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said there was no doubt that progress had been made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. However, a review of the world in terms of the three pillars of sustainable development showed that the development problems still existed and challenges for present and future generations had continued to grow. Alarming, unsustainable patterns of development, based on production and consumption patterns that had global economic, social and environmental consequences, particularly in developing countries, continued to hold

sway. The reality was discouraging: the cold fact was that the objectives of Agenda 21 had not been attained.

9. The Group of 77 and China called on the international community to comply with the commitments undertaken by the Heads of State and Government in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Without adequate international cooperation, financial resources and strong political will, no progress could be made. Failure to act could have a series of economic, social and environmental consequences, leading to the collapse of many developing countries. Moreover, the credibility of the multilateral system was at stake. The international community must seize the opportunity presented by the platform adopted at Johannesburg to fully implement Agenda 21.

10. The Group of 77 and China reiterated its call for greater coherence and coordination of policies in the work of all bodies involved in the management of sustainable development, so as to promote more integrated approaches to economic, social and environmental issues. The Commission on Sustainable Development must work more efficiently and provide policy guidance based on a realistic programme of work with attainable targets. Moreover, UNEP should be action-oriented and its mandate of fostering and promoting activities in the area of the environment throughout the United Nations system should be strengthened. The Group of 77 and China firmly believed that Agenda 21 should continue to be implemented at the same time as the recommendations of the major United Nations conferences held since 1992, especially the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

11. The Group of 77 and China welcomed the efforts being made to prepare for the International Year of Freshwater, scheduled for 2003. The Year would be the first practical opportunity to support and promote action to achieve the Millennium goal of reducing by half in 2015 the percentage of people who either did not have access to fresh water or could not afford it. Such action should be promoted and supported by the entire international community.

12. **Ms. Løj** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the central and eastern European countries associated with the European Union — Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia —

and the associated countries — Cyprus and Malta, which aligned themselves with her statement, said that the implementation of the outcomes of the Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg meetings would set the multilateral agenda for sustainable development for the coming years. The European Union welcomed the Johannesburg agreements on new targets, timetables, objectives and specific work programmes. Those agreements — in the fields of water and access to sanitation, fish stocks, oceans, chemicals, biodiversity and access to energy, including renewable energy, sustainable patterns of production and consumption and strategies for sustainable development — were important supplements to Agenda 21 and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. The Johannesburg affirmation that good governance, enhanced participation of civil society and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as respect for cultural diversity were essential to the pursuit of sustainable development was also particularly welcome. In that context, the European Union once again wished to stress the importance of gender equality. Women as well as men should be able to participate fully and equally in policy formulation and decision-making and be given full and equal access to economic opportunity, including land ownership and inheritance. The European Union also welcomed decisions by several countries to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

13. The European Union supported the partnership initiatives announced in Johannesburg and invited all countries and stakeholders to participate in the further development of partnerships in support of the Plan of Implementation. Such initiatives could foster sustainable development action by governments, civil society and businesses. In that regard, the European Union's Water for Life Initiative and its Energy Initiative were clear examples of the Union's firm commitment to implementing the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. Those initiatives were currently being further developed in close cooperation with partner countries and relevant stakeholders.

14. As far as renewable energy was concerned, the coalition of European Union countries and other States that had made a declaration on that issue at the World Summit (A/CONF.199/19) shared a commitment to setting clear and ambitious time-bound national targets for increasing the share of renewable energy,

establishing national, regional and hopefully global targets and agreeing to work together to achieve those goals. The European Union invited other countries to join in those endeavours.

15. The European Union wished to underline the need to ensure coherence between the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and other major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Johannesburg Summit. Coordinated and integrated conference follow-up was needed at the national and regional levels as well as within the United Nations. The European Union was committed to working towards the integration of long-term sustainable development goals into policies, country and regional frameworks, and operational guidelines of appropriate international bodies.

16. The General Assembly should confirm that sustainable development was a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities. Reporting on progress on sustainable development should be included in the current high level dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development. The Economic and Social Council should play a larger role in overseeing system-wide coordination and balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development. In that context, the Council should explore ways of improving coherence, coordination and cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO), including through its spring meetings with those institutions. The General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the Johannesburg agreement on United Nations governance structures.

17. The Commission on Sustainable Development must also be strengthened and must focus more closely on the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In that regard, the European Union looked forward to the forthcoming discussions on the Commission's five-year work programme, which should review the further implementation of Agenda 21, address new challenges and opportunities and ensure the establishment of a credible and flexible follow-up mechanism on partnerships by the Commission. It was equally important to ensure follow-up at the regional, national and local levels, where further action must be taken to address the negative environmental, economic and

social impact of current developments through the strengthening of regional institutions, the elaboration and implementation of sustainable development strategies and the reinforcement of local Agenda 21 processes. The European Union sought to strengthen the role of the United Nations economic commissions and other relevant regional bodies in furthering sustainable development and urged the Economic Commission for Europe to promote the implementation of the Johannesburg outcome at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment for Europe, to be held in Kiev in 2003.

18. Noting that each country had primary responsibility for its own sustainable development, she welcomed the NEPAD initiative and the international community's support for the implementation of that vision. Lastly, she stressed the European Union's continued commitment to ensuring consistency between its internal and external policies in order to achieve global poverty eradication and sustainable development.

19. **Ms. Ndhlovu** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that the Johannesburg Summit had provided the international community with the most positive and progressive outcome on sustainable development that it could achieve in the current global political environment. The Summit had, among other things, reaffirmed the importance of Agenda 21, the Rio Principles, and the Millennium development goals and stressed that eradicating poverty, changing consumption and production patterns and managing natural resources were the overarching objectives and essential requirements for sustainable development. It had focused on some obstacles to sustainable development, including the unfair global economic and trading systems and the inadequate transfer of technology. It had also shifted the focus from policy debates to the real task of implementation and showed the importance of integration and coordination in the follow-up to major meetings. It had highlighted the importance and necessity of collaboration between Governments and major groups to further sustainable development.

20. The Summit had reached new agreements and set new targets. Among other things, there had been a renewed commitment to improving access to water, health care and education, while new targets had been set for sanitation, agriculture and fisheries.

21. South Africa welcomed the focus on regional mechanisms for implementation of sustainable development and the special focus on Africa. In that regard, it was particularly pleased that the Summit had agreed to support NEPAD and other established regional and subregional efforts in Africa, including through financing, technical cooperation and human and institutional capacity-building. The various partnership initiatives announced at the Summit should complement the intergovernmental agreements.

22. She urged the international community to implement the Summit outcomes in a comprehensive and balanced manner. The Commission on Sustainable Development should be revitalized to enhance its effectiveness. Its focus should be on implementation and its work should also be linked to follow-up processes at the regional level. In that regard, multi-stakeholder participation would also need to be enhanced and linkages with the follow-up to the implementation of the Millennium development goals and the International Conference on Financing for Development were crucial. International institutions, including the international financial institutions, were urged to integrate the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in their work programmes.

23. The Community looked forward to constructive collaboration with all its partners and institutions in the implementation of the Johannesburg outcomes in its subregion. The combined challenges of prolonged drought, food insecurity and the HIV/AIDS epidemic made implementation in the subregion even more urgent.

24. **Mr. Kolby** (Norway) said that the results of the Johannesburg Summit had fallen far short of what was needed to meet challenges pertaining to environmental issues and poverty eradication. Nevertheless, given the complexity of the issues and the difficulties encountered during the negotiations, the results were far better than his delegation had feared and consensus had been reached on ambitious targets in some important areas, including water and sanitation.

25. Indeed, it had been agreed to halve by the year 2015 the proportion of people who did not have access to basic sanitation as well as the proportion of those without access to safe drinking water. Noting that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called for closer coordination within the United Nations system as well

as between the United Nations and financial institutions during the International Year of Freshwater in 2003 and beyond, he said that the United Nations should take the leading role in developing a programme of action on freshwater. It should organize a concerted effort to assist the hardest hit regions to achieve sustainable water management.

26. There had also been progress on chemicals. In that regard, Norway looked forward to discussing the global mercury assessment at the 2003 session of the UNEP Governing Council. Norway's position was that a legally binding instrument on mercury and other heavy metals was needed and it would work towards that end. It also welcomed the commitments made to reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010 and to reverse the current trend in natural resource degradation.

27. However, no agreement had been reached on ambitious energy targets. Increasing the global share of renewable energy was of the utmost importance in the struggle against climate change and Norway would work with like-minded countries to increase the use of such energy. It was also vital to work towards a more ambitious climate change regime with broad and balanced participation. In the long term, implementation of the Summit commitments depended on the actions of governments. Norway was prepared to assume its share of responsibilities in that regard. Earlier in the current year, his Government had launched its Action Plan for Combating Poverty in the South towards 2015, which covered all policy areas of importance to poverty reduction, including environment and natural resource management.

28. Ways had to be found to ensure that the partnership initiatives launched at Johannesburg contributed to the realization of targets set in the Plan of Implementation. Norway had announced an international partnership with UNEP to strengthen environmental management capacity as a contribution to poverty eradication in Africa. It welcomed the participation of other countries in further developing and implementing that initiative. More effective use must be made of existing structures in following up and coordinating and implementing the outcomes of United Nations conferences. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary machinery should play primary roles in following up conference outcomes. The Commission on Sustainable Development should be strengthened and become a more relevant forum for political dialogue on the links

between the three dimensions of sustainable development. It was also important for the Commission to work closely with all United Nations organizations involved in sustainable development.

29. The Johannesburg Summit must be followed by concrete action to reduce poverty, change production and consumption patterns and improve management of natural resources. The process must not be allowed to lose momentum and the international community owed it to future generations to take its commitments seriously and bring about real change.

30. *Mr. Kavan (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

31. **Mr. Shamanov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation was on the whole pleased with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which had reaffirmed the priority of national efforts to achieve sustainable development. The Russian Federation was focusing on establishing a modern legislative basis for sustainable development based on the principles of the market economy and democracy; ensuring environmental safety; maintaining the integrity of natural ecosystems and the quality of the environment; further enhancing the system of environmental education and awareness; and developing and introducing cutting-edge technologies. In the summer of 2002, the Russian Government had adopted its "ecological doctrine", and a plan was being drawn up for its implementation, taking into account the decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The State Duma had recently held special hearings on the Summit outcomes, at which a range of legislative initiatives had been suggested that were aimed at enhancing national activities directed at sustainable development.

32. It was important not to lose the momentum established in Johannesburg. One key factor was reform of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the light of the Summit outcomes, adapting its working methods to take account of new realities. The Plan of Implementation would be well served by the establishment of a special group within the United Nations Secretariat on the five key areas identified by the Secretary-General. Successful implementation would require effective, particularly cost-effective, and innovative modalities involving the principal agencies of the United Nations system. Work on specific areas needed to take account of the recommendations of

individual agencies and to narrow the gap between normative solutions and operational activities. It was also necessary to identify practical ways of implementing Summit recommendations at the regional level by working out new regional platforms and strategies of action to be coordinated by the regional economic commissions. Common approaches were needed to such fundamentally important questions as compensation for global environmental services provided by countries actually performing the functions of the planet's ecological donors. It would be useful for UNEP to conduct an in-depth analytical study of all aspects of that question.

33. **Ms. Zhang** Xiao'an (China) said that at the World Summit the international community had reached consensus on meeting the challenges involved in achieving sustainable development. The opportunity should be taken to implement the outcome of the Summit and to establish the appropriate follow-up mechanism to turn targets and commitments into action and reality.

34. In achieving the targets set out in Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit, countries and regions should aim at common development and establish new partnerships based on mutual respect, equality and reciprocity. International cooperation should be based on the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities". Countries should have adequate financial resources, relevant technologies and skilled personnel. Political will meant not only an increase in official development assistance and transfer of technologies on preferential terms, but also market access for developing countries, elimination of trade protectionism and debt reduction.

35. The Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to serve as the major forum within the United Nations system for discussion and consideration of sustainable development, and China favoured the convening of an organizational session of the Commission to determine future methodologies and work plans. China had attached great importance to sustainable development and had integrated it into an overall strategy for national economic development.

36. **Mr. Stagno** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, referred to the challenge of reconciling the sustainable development and international trade agendas. Recent international meetings had mobilized the commitment of the international community to take

firm action to meet its obligations. He outlined a number of tangible results of the World Summit, mentioning the importance of access to energy as a poverty relief strategy.

37. The Rio Group was convinced that sustainable development required a stable and inclusive international economic system in which the environmental dimension was viewed as an opportunity for investment and trade rather than as a barrier or source of discrimination. Developed countries should adhere to their commitments to developing countries in terms of financial support, human resources capacity-building, technology transfer and optimal use of energy sources. The current focus on international security issues should not divert attention from development and environment issues as international priorities. In that context, the Rio Group wished to reaffirm the central role of the United Nations in the promotion of international cooperation to achieve sustainable development.

38. The Group attached great importance to implementation of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit and wished, in particular, to endorse the mandates in chapter XI of the Plan of Implementation entitled "Institutional framework for sustainable development", and subsection E of that chapter dealing with the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It was, however, concerned by the lack of clarity about the redesign and restructuring of the Commission and particularly about the agreements to be reached in the coming year on the Commission's modalities and work programme and the results and interaction between the negotiation and non-negotiation sessions, among others.

39. **Mr. Hussain** (India) said that the goals and targets of the World Summit should be translated into firm projects and action at all levels, although the outcome did not meet the full expectations of developing countries. They had hoped that the developed countries would undertake specific, time-bound commitments to make available substantial financial resources and environmentally-sound technologies to developing countries. He hoped that through collective action common goals could be achieved, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

40. With regard to poverty eradication, India welcomed the decision to establish a world solidarity

fund and hoped that at its current session the General Assembly would be able to finalize the modalities for establishing that fund. It also welcomed the inclusion of the targets set for the provision of sanitation and safe drinking water as an internationally agreed goal.

41. India recognized the importance of the conservation, protection and sustainable use of natural resources. For India, a country rich in biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge, the decision to negotiate an international regime to protect and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources was particularly relevant. Developing countries had long sought equitable benefit-sharing and supported the establishment of sui generis systems and traditional systems, since previous provisions under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) had not proved adequate. The immediate task was to structure and revitalize the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in line with the mandate agreed at Johannesburg. It was hoped that outstanding matters such as the framework, criteria and scope for partnerships would be considered within the Commission.

42. His delegation did not agree with several editorial changes made in the published version of the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (document A/CONF.199/20), as they did not accurately reflect the understanding reached among participants.

43. **Mr. Requeijo Gual** (Cuba) said that the developed countries lacked the political will to fulfil their obligations, and that there had been attempts to dilute the Rio principles, including the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities. International efforts to protect ecological systems did not nullify the primary responsibility of developed countries for the degradation of environmental conditions or disruption of the ecological balance of developing countries. The Johannesburg Summit had reiterated the Rio goals, but had not achieved firm financial commitments to allow developing countries to achieve sustainable development.

44. He highlighted the problems arising from low levels of official development assistance, persistent external debt and lack of access to new technologies, and reiterated proposals to generate additional resources for development made by his delegation at

Johannesburg. They concerned the creation of a development tax, cancellation of the developing countries' external debt, allocation of half of the sums spent on military purposes to a fund for sustainable development and immediate compliance by the developed countries with their ODA commitment.

45. **Mr. Hidayat** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that no effort should be spared to implement agreed commitments. The intention to reverse the decline in ODA was welcome, and innovative ways to mobilize financial resources had been adopted to ensure the availability of new and additional financial resources.

46. Stressing the critical role of regional and international organizations in elaborating programmes and activities to help implement the sustainable development agenda, he said that the member countries of ASEAN had devised a number of strategies and programmes for that purpose through various regional initiatives.

47. Partnerships launched by governments, major groups and intergovernmental organizations, were an innovative approach for generating activities and resources. However, such initiatives were no substitute for government responsibility. He hailed the contribution of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as a high-level focal point to monitor, review and follow up various outcomes.

48. He reiterated the call for strengthened institutional arrangements and capacities at the national, subregional and regional levels, with a view to promoting the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. The momentum generated at the summit should be kept alive. High-level participation in the next substantive session of the Commission on Sustainable Development should be promoted and innovative measures for ensuring its effective functioning should be identified.

49. **Mr. Gallegos Chiriboga** (Ecuador) said that the Johannesburg Summit had reaffirmed, at the highest political level, the commitment of the international community to the objective of sustainable development. Global economic transformations had failed to generate real opportunities. Instead, there had been an increasing tendency towards marginalization and social exclusion, and environmental degradation

and pressure on natural resources and environmental services had persisted.

50. Meeting the challenge of real integration of policies on sustainable development required acceptance of responsibilities nationally and regionally, but would also entail confronting global issues, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The fulfilment of mandates under chapter XI of the Plan of Implementation and the role to be played by the Commission on Sustainable Development were crucial. The United Nations and the multilateral system in general should channel and mobilize international efforts and resources to meet global challenges.

51. **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Egypt) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

52. The World Summit had accomplished a lot. Among other things, it had reaffirmed the centrality of Agenda 21 and the Rio principles and emphasized the commitment of the international community to move from policy development to implementation; it had incorporated the Millennium development goals and reaffirmed the fundamental principle of common but differentiated responsibilities; and it had seen the adoption of a multi-pronged approach to poverty eradication. Yet the Plan of Implementation did not specify how the targets agreed to in Johannesburg would be implemented, how much that would cost, where the resources would come from, who would do what, and how progress would be measured. Instead, what had prevailed had been a "litigation" approach to international cooperation emphasizing compliance, liability, enforcement and the need for dispute settlement mechanisms. The North had made a systematic attempt to absolve itself of its previous international commitments on means of implementation.

53. If sustainable development was to be achieved, there must be greater coherence at the national level, concrete commitment and political will on the part of the international community to support developing countries, and a favourable institutional framework. Every country was currently in the process of preparing for implementation of the Johannesburg outcomes and considering how best to incorporate the Summit outcome in the national development framework. The

international community should assume its responsibility to ensure the availability of the required means of implementation. The resources announced at the International Conference on Financing for Development should be linked to the implementation of some well-identified Summit targets. There could be no sustainable development unless the multilateral trading system was made the key vehicle for the mobilization by developing countries of the resources required for development. A way must be found to improve the institutional infrastructure for sustainable development at the international and regional levels. The international community needed to evaluate the experience of the last 10 years in order to avoid the mistakes of the past and build on its successes.

54. **Mr. Singhara Na Ayudhaya** (Thailand) said that his delegation supported the statements made by Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by Indonesia on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

55. One of the important outcomes of the World Summit was time-bound targets. All nations and all stakeholders must work in partnership in the pursuit of those targets and commitments while upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Thailand joined in the calls for the early implementation of the relevant section of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on the provision of new and additional financial resources to developing countries. Capacity-building was another area of critical importance; the international community, relevant international organizations and developed countries should provide greater support for capacity-building and the development of science and technology in developing countries.

56. Despite Thailand's rapid integration into the global economy and its sudden exposure to the forces of globalization, it had made appreciable progress in implementing its commitments to Agenda 21. It had incorporated Agenda 21 into its national policies and programmes under the national economic and social development plan for 2002-2003. One notable feature of the plan was the philosophy of "sufficiency economy", which encouraged people to achieve a sustainable lifestyle in harmony with existing domestic resources and local knowledge and wisdom. That philosophy would guide Thailand in implementing Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

57. **Mr. Mizukami** (Japan) recalled that, at the World Summit, Japan had emphasized the importance of sharing strategies, responsibility, experience and information globally, a principle it had referred to as the “Partnership of Global Sharing” for sustainable development. It was important to take concrete action to implement the outcome of the Summit. Japan had already initiated and would steadily implement the Koizumi Initiative, which attached importance to human resources development and specified measures to be taken in the area of sustainable development.

58. The Plan of Implementation recommended that the General Assembly should consider proclaiming a decade of education for sustainable development, starting in 2005, as proposed by Japan. Consequently, Japan had decided to submit a draft resolution on the issue at the current session. The purpose of the draft resolution was to prepare for the start of the decade. In addition to proposing that the General Assembly should declare the 10-year period beginning in 2005 to be a decade of education for sustainable development, the Japanese draft resolution would propose that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) should be designated as the lead agency in developing a draft international implementation scheme and that governments should be invited to include necessary concrete measures to implement the decade in their national educational plans. Japan would like the draft resolution to be adopted by consensus with as many sponsors as possible. It accordingly requested the understanding and support of other Member States.

59. The Governments of Japan and Indonesia, together with their partners, had launched the Asia Forestry Partnership (AFP) as a type 2 project during the Johannesburg Summit. The objective of AFP was to promote sustainable forest management in Asia. The Government of Japan, the Government of Indonesia, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) had hosted the first meeting for the promotion of AFP in Tokyo on 11 November 2002.

60. Water was indispensable to human life and the preservation of ecosystems. In Johannesburg, therefore, participants had agreed to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who were unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who did not have access to basic sanitation. Bearing in mind the importance of water, Japan was preparing for

the third World Water Forum and the Ministerial Conference on the subject, which would be held in March 2003. Japan invited members to participate actively to ensure that those events would have a positive outcome as follow-up to the Summit.

61. **Mr. Nobs** (Switzerland) said that Switzerland particularly welcomed the following achievements of the World Summit: the agreements on new targets, objectives and specific work programmes in the field of chemicals, biodiversity, sustainable patterns of production and consumption, and water and access to sanitation; the affirmation that good governance, enhanced participation of civil society, gender equality, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as cultural diversity, were essential to the pursuit of sustainable development; the urgent appeal to all countries to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and the announcement by several delegations that they were in the process of ratifying that important instrument; and the launching of partnership initiatives, especially the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions.

62. Switzerland was satisfied with the decisions taken at the Summit and was fully committed to contributing to their implementation. An integrated follow-up to the Millennium Declaration, the major United Nations conferences and the Johannesburg Summit was crucial. Switzerland was also satisfied with the decision taken at the Summit to strengthen the institutional structure for sustainable development, particularly with regard to the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development as the primary United Nations organs responsible for sustainable development.

63. The Commission on Sustainable Development was the main United Nations organ for policy dialogue on sustainable development, and its work should focus on horizontal issues rather than on issues that were treated in other, more specialized processes. The Commission should be involved in following up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It should also be involved in the implementation of existing partnerships and provide a framework for new ones, as well as review the multi-stakeholder dialogue by using it for the discussion of partnership initiatives.

64. In order to ensure sustainable development, an ecosystem approach to freshwater issues had to be adopted. Every effort must be made to fulfil the new

target of halving the population without access to sanitation by 2015. With regard to the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Switzerland fully supported the decision taken at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum to strengthen international environmental governance. It was important to ensure that UNEP was able to provide the necessary policy guidance and financial means. Switzerland was committed to a forward-looking forest policy that would deliver tangible results. Therefore, it fully supported the work of the United Nations Forum on Forestry (UNFF) and other relevant institutions. The forest process should give new momentum to the implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) proposals for action.

65. **Mr. De Villiers** (World Tourism Organization) said that the World Tourism Organization had argued on many occasions that the momentum of tourism should be more effectively harnessed in efforts to combat poverty and to preserve the world's natural and cultural heritage. Regrettably, tourism had been largely ignored in most of the poverty-reduction strategies of international aid and development agencies, despite the fact that many developing countries had a comparative advantage in that field. However, that attitude was changing, and a new appreciation for the value of tourism as a development tool was emerging. While Agenda 21 had not included a single reference to tourism, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Brussels Programme of Action highlighted sustainable tourism.

66. The World Tourism Organization had responded to the challenge facing it in several ways. A Global Code of Ethics for Tourism had been negotiated and unanimously approved by member countries in 1999 and had been noted with interest by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001. Following the decision by the General Assembly to declare 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism, the World Tourism Organization, in collaboration with UNEP, had arranged a World Ecotourism Summit in Quebec City in May 2002, with the participation of more than 1,200 delegates from 132 countries. The main outcome of the Ecotourism Summit had been the Quebec Declaration (A/57/343), containing important guidelines and recommendations for the sustainable development of ecotourism, which had been submitted to the World Summit for Sustainable Development. In addition, the

World Tourism Organization, together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), had launched in Johannesburg a project with the acronym ST-EP, which provided a new institutional mechanism for linking sustainable tourism and elimination of poverty with a framework for financing, research and practical projects. The World Tourism Organization and UNCTAD had also established a working group to help developing countries gain maximum benefit from negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda relating to the comparative advantage they enjoyed in tourism.

67. His Organization looked forward to the completion in 2003 of the process set in motion by Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/24 for the conversion of the World Tourism Organization to a specialized agency of the United Nations. That would strengthen the cooperation already existing between the Organization and several United Nations agencies and would further advance the implementation of the goals spelled out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Brussels Programme of Action.

68. **Mr. Langmore** (International Labour Organization) said that the International Labour Organization (ILO) was pleased that the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation recognized the vital role of income-generating employment opportunities that took into account the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work as an essential factor for the eradication of poverty. His Organization would continue to use its decent work agenda and global employment agenda as key mechanisms to support action at the country level to promote employment, incomes and decent work; it was also collaborating with the Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network initiative, which brought together the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Labour Organization.

69. At its forthcoming meeting, the Committee on Employment and Social Policy of the Governing Body of ILO would discuss follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit, particularly in regard to employment, decent work and the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and relevant ILO standards for poverty eradication; the role of ILO and its constituents in facilitating the transition to more sustainable consumption and production patterns; and the continuation of activities implemented since Rio to enhance the capacity of ILO workers' and employers'

organizations to deal directly with the challenges of sustainable development.

70. The ILO World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization would also be considering follow-up to the Johannesburg Summit. It would probably consider means of rapidly increasing opportunities for work and productivity growth, improving labour standards, reversing growing inequities of income, strengthening the international environment for development and addressing the global democratic deficit. The International Labour Organization gave high priority to integrating its Johannesburg follow-up initiatives with the Millennium development goals, although it fully recognized that the Johannesburg outcomes went far beyond the Millennium development goals relating to poverty reduction and encompassed many important commitments and opportunities for action by and within industrialized countries, all of which warranted follow-up action by ILO and its constituents.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.