



General Assembly

Sixty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
3 December 2008

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 8th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 16 October 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Bródi (Hungary)
*Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative
and Budgetary Questions:* Ms. McLurg

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

Agenda item 118: Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 *(continued)*

Improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of development-related activities and revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (continued)
(A/62/7/Add.40 and A/62/708)

1. **Mr. Sen** (India) said that, considering that the world was facing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, the Secretary-General's modest proposals for strengthening the development pillar of the Secretariat, contained in his report on improving the delivery of the mandates of development-related activities (A/62/708), were timely. They were a good first step towards further strengthening the United Nations as the principal source of normative and analytical work on development and the chief provider of development cooperation. In light of the recognition, in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, that social development was crucial to attaining a peaceful world with human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and in the midst of the implementation phase of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the decrease over the previous 10 years in appropriations for the development-related sections of the United Nations budget and in the proportion of posts under those budget sections was unfortunate and inexplicable. Approving the proposals would still only increase those proportions to levels that were below the figures of a decade earlier.

2. The Secretary-General had been correct to state that leadership on development was a hallmark of the United Nations, but the Organization's mandates in that area must be matched by adequate, sustained and predictable resources. Member States should take urgent action to fill the critical gaps in capacity in the seven areas identified in the Secretary-General's report.

3. Arguments were often made that resources in the regular budget did not reflect the real picture since much development funding was channelled through the funds and programmes on a voluntary basis. Yet the Board of Auditors, in its report on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the biennium ending 31 December 2007 (A/63/5/Add.1), had noted

that a decrease in regular resources and an increase in extrabudgetary resources raised the concern that UNDP was shifting towards being driven by specific donor requirements rather than the objectives established by the General Assembly and the Programme's Executive Board. That could be true for any fund or programme supported predominantly by voluntary funding.

4. Although the operational work of the funds and programmes was important, bolstering the Secretariat's development pillar would provide developing countries with a credible source of policy options, research, and analytical and normative advice as an alternative to the Bretton Woods institutions, whose policy prescriptions had only aggravated past crises in developing countries. Moreover, those prescriptions were irrelevant in the current financial crisis, which presented an opportunity for reform of international economic governance by giving a leading oversight role to the United Nations. The legitimacy and neutrality of the United Nations would ensure the acceptability and success of the policies developed under its auspices, provided that the resources requested by the Secretary-General were approved and the Secretariat was held accountable for hiring high-quality staff in economics and other social sciences.

5. His delegation concurred with the observation of the Advisory Committee (A/62/7/Add.40) that the merger of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa was inconsistent with General Assembly decisions and had not been adequately justified. The initiative could undermine the dedicated high-level attention required to mobilize international support for the most vulnerable Member States. Accordingly, his delegation fully supported approval of all the resources proposed in the Secretary-General's report.

6. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the item before the Committee was a priority. Over the previous two decades, the world had agreed on a set of ambitious, but achievable, development goals. The Organization's efforts to build peace and security and to advance human rights and the rule of law would not succeed unless it strengthened its endeavours in the area of development. Indeed, there was a risk that the gains that had been made in development could be reversed: the most recent World Bank data put the

number of persons living in poverty at 2.4 billion. The current food, energy, economic and financial crises only emphasized the importance of development to the future of the world.

7. The United Nations must address the growing challenges to sustained economic growth and poverty reduction with viable alternatives to the policies that had previously prevailed. To do so, it must have the capacity to be at the cutting edge of thinking on economic and social development. It was also imperative to do solid groundwork on norms and policy guidelines to deal with the causes of the current crises, and to strengthen overall capacity to monitor and provide early warning on development issues.

8. The Secretary-General's proposals acknowledged, but did not fully address, the imbalance between the three pillars of the Organization. Nevertheless, they were a step in the right direction. The Secretariat's needs in the development field must be kept under constant review to ensure a timely response to new crises. Other United Nations entities could play a vital role in promoting development: the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for example, were particularly significant for CARICOM, and should be strengthened.

9. Reiterating the importance of the Development Account as part of the development pillar, he noted lastly, that the envisioned transfer of savings to the Account had failed to provide funding at the proposed level of \$200 million and called for the creation of a viable system that would provide adequate and stable funding.

10. **Mr. Limeres** (Argentina) said that the quest for peace and security, respect for human rights and the promotion of development were mutually reinforcing tasks that constituted the fundamental mission of the United Nations, a vision that had been underlined by the 2005 World Summit. It was unfortunate that the report of Secretary-General on development-related activities (A/62/708), which indicated the need for reform of the sector, did not include a plan for the Development Account. At a time when achieving the MDGs appeared ever less likely for many States, the General Assembly must act urgently and imaginatively to acquire greater analytical, normative and operational capacities to support governments in promoting development. In his region, ECLAC provided

invaluable assistance in development tasks; his Government therefore welcomed the plan to rejuvenate and broaden its human resource base. His Government was grateful to those donor States that provided resources to the funds and programmes, but believed that the Secretariat had an obligation to provide an integrated strategy, analysis and coordination for development activities.

11. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that development, together with peace and security and humanitarian affairs, was one of the main pillars of the Organization's activities. As the majority of threats to peace and security and violations of human rights were the result of adverse social and economic conditions, it followed that the attainment of social and economic development would make such phenomena a thing of the past. The vital importance of economic and social development in the creation of a peaceful world based on cooperation was recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly in Articles 1 and 55. The Secretary-General had launched many initiatives aimed at strengthening international peace and security, and his delegation agreed with him that the Organization must also have an enhanced development dimension.

12. In his report (A/62/708), the Secretary-General was not proposing the adoption of new development-related mandates, but rather an increase in resources that would enable the Organization to implement its existing mandates. In the past there had been an erosion of the resources allocated to development, while at the same time, more mandates had been given to the Secretariat. That had led to budgetary constraints and to a dilution of the development-related efforts of the Organization as its resources had been spread too thinly across a wide range of activities.

13. His delegation strongly supported the proposals in the report, which focused on critical shortcomings that prevented the Secretariat from responding effectively to the challenges facing it. In particular, his delegation supported the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as being at the core of the development pillar of the United Nations; it provided an important service to Member States and was responsible for the United Nations Development Plan. However, the support given by the Department to Member States was changing because it was taking on a greater burden of work without an increase in resources. His delegation also supported the development activities of the regional commissions.

14. Noting the concerns expressed at the increase in the regular budget that would be required if the proposals in the Secretary-General's report were adopted, he pointed out that the resources allocated to development were only a very small part of the budget. While it was true that General Assembly resolution 62/236 on questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 had been adopted by a recorded vote, it should be remembered that paragraph 73 of the resolution, which called on the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive proposal with a view to improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of development-related activities of the Secretariat, had been adopted by consensus and therefore had the agreement of all Member States. The provision of additional resources for development would in the longer term enable savings to be made that could be used for maintaining international peace and security and protecting human rights.

15. **Ms. Rubiales de Chamorro** (Nicaragua) said that strengthening the development pillar of the United Nations was the only element of the current reforms that enjoyed an unequivocal legislative mandate, based on the 2005 World Summit and General Assembly resolution 62/236. Without development, the other two pillars, peace and security and human rights were unattainable. Unfortunately, the percentage of the budget allocated to development activities had gradually decreased over the years. Both the level of the Development Account and its funding mechanism were woefully inadequate. While she understood that a report on the Account would be introduced later, her delegation wished to express its view that the Secretariat had shown no inclination, despite the scarcity of other funds, to use the Account to finance any development activities. The lack of information on the subject in the report before the Committee was evidence of that.

16. The decrease in development-related resources was all the more incredible in that the challenges facing the world had been caused by the reigning development model as well as an unwillingness to share the benefits of development equitably among all peoples. Rarely in history had so many crises emerged simultaneously: in finance, economies, food, energy and the climate. Resolving them would require first resolving the crisis of political will.

17. The current international order was based on a development model derived from the slave trade, and must be changed. Owing to their incompetence, the international financial institutions had failed to prevent the current crises; indeed, their policies had accentuated poverty and the food crisis that had resulted in starvation for millions around the globe. The United Nations must hearken to the cries of despair and act as a catalyst for a new international financial and economic order to replace the existing unjust capitalist system in which bankrupt speculators were bailed out by the state while profit-making enterprises were privatized.

18. Nicaragua would therefore join in supporting the Secretary-General's proposal to strengthen the Secretariat's role in the international development agenda as the first step towards empowering the Organization in all financial, economic and social matters. A strong Secretariat at Headquarters and strong regional commissions would help the peoples of the world put economics at the service of humanity instead of the reverse.

19. **Ms. Samayoa-Recari** (Guatemala) recalled the intentions expressed by the Member States in the Charter of the United Nations "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom", and the Organization's role in translating into action the commitments of the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Millennium Declaration and the broad development vision described at the 2005 World Summit. It was therefore vital for the Organization's development architecture to be strengthened.

20. Taking into account the need for reform of the Organization's development architecture to be fully coordinated with its funds, programmes and agencies, the zero nominal growth in the development-related areas of the budget for the biennium 2008-2009 was worrying. Furthermore, reiterating its position against contemplating any reform without following established procedure or taking an overall view of the subject, her delegation recalled that the budgetary imbalance had left the General Assembly with no choice but to request, in its resolution 62/236 on questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, an overall package of measures focused on development. The only other recent development-related action, the strengthening of

the Economic and Social Council, had been undertaken within existing resources.

21. Concurring with the view of the Secretary-General that the Organization needed a stronger development pillar, and that current resources for development were spread too thinly, her delegation believed that international security would suffer if equal attention was not paid to eradicating global poverty. It hoped that, in proposing a programme budget for 2010-2011, the Secretary-General would strike a more even balance and request appropriate resources for all areas of activity underpinned by mandates from the General Assembly.

22. However, as it was rumoured that the Secretary-General had asked all departments to make across-the-board reductions of 2 per cent in the proposed budget for the next biennium, her delegation hoped that the Secretariat would bear in mind the lessons of the approval of the previous budget; it would not be a desirable outcome for the General Assembly to fail once again to reach agreement.

23. **Mr. Debabeche** (Algeria) said that the recent coordinated efforts of powerful nations to bring stability and confidence to the international markets attested to the intertwined nature of international issues. Development must be a common endeavour, undertaken by society as a whole, otherwise the developing countries, whose influence was only felt when talking of raw resources, would be reduced to suffering the consequences of a world order that they had no role in creating.

24. Thanks to the injection of large amounts of money into the world financial markets, inflation was rampant and commodity prices were falling. As a result, sustainable development plans were threatened, and financial speculation was taking its toll on the weakest. The Doha Development Round of world trade negotiations was at a standstill.

25. While the Organization's ambition of eliminating want had led to the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals, there were signs that they would not be achieved on schedule. Without the development pillar of the Organization, and with part of the world's population going hungry and living in unacceptable poverty, the situation of the human rights and peace and security pillars would be in doubt. There was in fact a symbiotic and mutually reinforcing relationship between the three elements. Concentrating on one to

the detriment of the others was not the correct path. It was a matter of concern that appropriations for development-related activities had declined over the previous decade, and that the capacities of the regional commissions had been weakened.

26. Discussion of the report of the Secretary-General was timely. Reform of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the backbone of the Organization's development activities, should not be neglected. The countries which had demonstrated their solidarity by committing 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product to development-related activities had set an example that should be followed.

27. While resources for development were important, the legislative mandates related to development must also be implemented with the same degree of diligence as any other legislative mandate, and without discrimination. In that connection, savings made through the streamlining of mandates must be transferred to development activities.

28. His delegation deeply regretted that no Advisory Committee report on the Development Account had so far been made available, believing that discussion of that matter should not be separated from the overall discussion of development. In addition, it wished to emphasize the importance of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and to draw attention to the conclusions in the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/63/212).

29. The proposals of the Secretary-General were an important step in the right direction, considering the multiplication of the Organization's mandates. Although they carried a financial cost, they carried the simple message that the political will should exist to confront the ills of the world.

30. **Mr. Biaboroh-Iboro** (Congo) said that, at the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, the entire international community had committed itself to agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. As such, they were a point of reference. Since their adoption, the United Nations and its Secretary-General had worked constantly to achieve the goals set for peace and security, development and human rights. General Assembly resolution 62/236

offered an opportunity to address shortcomings in priority areas.

31. Despite the assertion that the Secretary-General's proposals would result in no alteration of the subprogrammes' logical frameworks, his delegation thought it important that common efforts to attain the expected accomplishments should not suffer from lack of cohesion given the interdependence of their various elements. Accordingly, it wished to see clearer divisions of labour and responsibilities among the entities involved in development, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Trade Centre of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization, the regional commissions and the funds and programmes.

32. In a global crisis which left developing countries most vulnerable, Africa and Africans suffered the greatest ill effects: repeated armed conflicts; rising food and energy prices; climate change; HIV and AIDS; malaria and tuberculosis. His delegation welcomed the high-level meeting on Africa's development needs held at the beginning of the General Assembly's sixty-third session and the political declaration (A/63/L.1) adopted at the close of the meeting, which reaffirmed the international community's commitment to Africa.

33. His delegation also keenly awaited implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, but was dismayed at the marked financial imbalance in the Organization. While the Secretariat's development-related responsibilities had grown in the previous decade, the human and financial resources allocated to those activities had shrunk over the same period of time. Although the Secretary-General had proposed measures to restore the balance between the mandates conferred on the Organization and resources, they were only palliatives. Lasting solutions — involving an increase in human and material resources — must be found.

34. **Mr. Quezada** (Chile) said that the Organization's Charter, which dated back over sixty years, had established that development, peace and security, and human rights must be treated equally, a principle reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. However, the sufficient, constant and predictable resources required to bring about that equality were

missing. In fact, the development-related portions of the budget were contracting.

35. The situation was made more complex by the multi-dimensional nature of development and by the challenges of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, promoting economic development, trade and finance, South-South economic cooperation and integration, and addressing gender and environmental issues and regional dimensions of development. In that context, the resources requested by the Secretary-General, including 152 new posts, were appropriate, and the inclusion of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was welcome because of its considerable development role. The proposal of the Secretary-General sought not only to give the Secretariat the means to fulfil its development-related mandates, but also to strengthen its legislative and analytical capacity in that area.

36. For Chile, a number of aspects of the development pillar were particularly significant. They included financing for development, as the main means of achieving the MDGs; acknowledgement of the special needs of middle-income countries; capacity-building at the national level; good governance at that national and international levels; gender equality and empowerment of women and South-South and triangular cooperation. The half-way stage of the timetable for achieving the MDGs had been reached. If the same pace of progress was maintained, they would not be attainable by 2015. With the financial and food crises having added to the challenge, a more optimistic scenario would be impossible unless the donor community fulfilled its official development assistance commitments and developing countries implemented suitable and effective public policies. Finally, the development pillar should not be connected to other aspects of the Organization's agenda. Development was not, and should not become, a bargaining chip.

37. **Mr. Kovalenko** (Russian Federation) said that reliance on the United Nations, as the world's most universal and legitimate international organization, had increased as globalization progressed and world economic instability worsened. It was uniquely placed politically and logistically to develop balanced, consensus-based solutions to matters of security, development and human rights, as an indivisible whole. For that reason, his delegation supported the strengthening of the social and economic pillar of the Organization and agreed overall with the challenges

and priorities identified by the Secretary-General in his report. The aim of reform should be to enable the Organization to fulfil more effectively the decisions taken by the Member States in the intergovernmental bodies.

38. The establishment of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 1997 had provided a firm foundation to consolidate the Organization's role in the economic and social fields. The Department was one of the principal United Nations forums for economic analysis and forecasting. Support should be provided for its technical assistance activities, which were not costly, were in demand and had proven their effectiveness. Meanwhile, the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council required suitable financial and logistical support for development-related infrastructure. Particular attention should be focused on increasing the effectiveness of the regional economic commissions, which should receive equal treatment in the allocation of resources from the regular budget. Their role at the subregional level could be strengthened by expanding links with existing subregional integration institutions, but care should be taken to avoid duplication between such institutions and the United Nations.

39. As consolidation of the social and economic infrastructure of the Organization proceeded, care should be taken to ensure that management reform plans developed in the Secretariat and at the inter-agency level, including plans affecting operational activities and the gender architecture, remained transparent to the Member States. It would also be logical to discuss proposed changes in the operational management arrangements, notably the role of resident coordinators, within the context of the proposals regarding the development pillar. While it appeared that the Chief Executives Board for Coordination was actively debating those issues, many Member States had received insufficient information on their administrative and budgetary implications, and the report of the Secretary-General currently before the Committee also failed to provide such information.

40. While reductions in administrative expenses should not be the only gauge of the effectiveness of the Secretariat, optimizing the use of resources remained a priority. Particular attention should be focused on proposed posts and structures for policy-making in the field of development. In the informal consultations, his delegation would like more details of the division of

responsibilities, for example, in order to compare the role of posts requested to address climate change issues in the Secretariat with the role of entities in other parts of the United Nations system having equivalent functions. Any decisions on that aspect of the Secretary-General's proposals should not conflict with existing resolutions on the matter.

41. **Ms. Rodríguez de Ortiz** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that her delegation firmly believed in the need for systematic efforts to scale up the capacity of the Organization to deliver its mandates and to respond effectively to new and emerging challenges in all three core areas of its work, namely, peace and security, development and human rights and humanitarian affairs. It further believed that economic and social development was crucial to building foundations for a peaceful and cooperative world, as recognized in Articles 1 and 55 of the United Nations Charter.

42. The Secretary-General's proposal to increase the share of the regular budget for the biennium 2008-2009 devoted to development-related activities to 18.2 per cent did not correct the current imbalance among the three pillars of the Organization. Indeed, even the higher share allocated in the biennium 1998-1999 had been insufficient.

43. It was disappointing that, more than 10 years after its establishment, the Development Account was nowhere near its original \$200 million target. Since the modality of funding the Account from efficiency savings had clearly proved unsuccessful, it was time the Organization developed funding mechanisms that worked.

44. The development pillar was the only reform currently under consideration with a General Assembly mandate; yet, it had not been given the same priority — or the same resources — as the other two pillars. Venezuela agreed with the Secretary-General that a stronger United Nations needed a stronger development pillar and wished to remind the developed countries of the need to fulfil their commitment to channel 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product to the developing countries for financing for development.

45. The world was currently facing one of its worst economic crises and, if effective action was not taken immediately, the most deprived sectors of the population would suffer its worst effects. Those sectors

should not have to bear the cost of restoring economic order, as that would only increase poverty, unemployment and the exploitation of the working class.

46. **Mr. Loy Hui Chien** (Singapore) said that the ongoing financial crisis was threatening to further stall economic growth in developing countries. His delegation was disturbed that the United Nations had not taken any initiative to calm the current financial turmoil. At the very least, it should strengthen the development pillar, bearing in mind that the Organization's continued relevance very much depended on its achievements in that area. Development must not be given lower priority than the better-known priorities of peace and security and human rights.

47. Singapore firmly supported the Organization's development agenda and welcomed the Secretary-General's report (A/62/708) as a step in the right direction. Member States must be prepared to commit sufficient resources in a sustained manner and to meet their responsibility to reinforce the development agenda. They should also ensure that approved resources produced tangible results; instead of being used to fund seminars and meetings, those resources should be channelled into field activities such as microfinancing projects, health care programmes and the construction of schools.

48. In her introduction to the Secretary-General's report, the Deputy Secretary-General had highlighted the mismatch between the Organization's mandated responsibilities and available resources. Although the Secretary-General's report was a step in the right direction, certain areas required greater attention. For example, he had proposed only a modest increase in resources for the Pacific Islands, even though they were among the States most vulnerable to natural disasters. The proposed allotment might not even cover emergency evacuation costs for one State, let alone all the Pacific Islands. The Caribbean island States faced similar challenges and would definitely need more assistance from the United Nations.

49. The Secretary-General maintained that only one Under-Secretary-General was needed to handle the two sizeable portfolios of Africa's development and least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Since that arrangement might not do justice to the needs of all the

countries concerned, the matter required further consideration.

50. Singapore looked forward to a comprehensive discussion and urged Member States to go beyond polemics and work together to find practical and realistic solutions for development, with a view to achieving the MDGs by 2015.

51. **Ms. Tuyunbayeva** (Uzbekistan) said that a central aim of the reform efforts launched in 1997 was to improve coordination within the Organization, with its international mandate, broad range of responsibilities and many-tiered decision-making structure covering interlinked subjects. For coordination in the United Nations system to reach the level required by the provisions of the Millennium Declaration, the development pillar of the Secretariat must be strengthened. In that connection, the report of the Secretary-General had highlighted the coordination role of the regional commissions.

52. The activities of the regional commissions regarding the Central Asian region must be seen as an integral part of the Organization's strategies, notably those aimed at achieving the MDGs. Central Asia, as a centre of economic growth, possessed substantial human capital, an industrial and manufacturing base and huge reserves of natural resources, which placed it in a position to assume a greater role in the world economy. The Secretary-General had made a timely proposal to establish a joint office of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and of the Economic Commission for Europe to advance the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, founded in 1998 to contribute to regional cooperation and integration. The current priorities of the Special Programme included developing transport infrastructure, simplifying border crossings, promoting the rational use of water and energy, getting oil and gas to world markets and restructuring manufacturing to make it internationally competitive.

53. **Ms. Espinosa** (Ecuador) said that the effects of the current economic, food, energy and climate crises could not be mitigated without true compromise and effective measures by the international community, particularly the countries directly responsible for the crises. For its part, the United Nations should develop concrete measures for a new international economic order. Member States must begin by recognizing the

deficiencies in the current structure and allocation of resources, bearing in mind the principle set out in the preamble to the United Nations Charter, namely to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

54. All nations had a right to development. As stated by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, development — understood not as growth but as a way to achieve welfare and human dignity — was the only real solution to the current crisis and, at the same time, the Organization's only instrument for peacekeeping. Although Ecuador supported the Secretary-General's proposal to increase the portion of the regular budget devoted to development-related activities to 18.2 per cent, the increase did not compensate for the current imbalance among the three pillars and therefore did not achieve the effective and efficient delivery of the Organization's mandates.

55. Sufficient resources for development was not the only issue. It was also important to strengthen the capacity of development entities such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD and the regional commissions and to clarify the division of roles.

56. Ecuador attached particular importance to the strengthening of ECLAC and acknowledged its ongoing efforts to support the Governments in the region in their quest to achieve sustainable human development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

57. Peace and security could not be guaranteed unless the United Nations addressed the needs of the millions of people who were currently living in poverty and despair. Her delegation was ready to work with others to ensure that the necessary resources were allocated to the development mandates, so that all persons, including the victims of the current unequal and unsustainable economic model, could have a better future.

58. **Mr. Bugaloof** (Qatar) said that his country firmly believed in the importance of development. The Charter asserted the essential role of economic and social development in creating a world of peace and cooperation and the issue of development could not be ignored. On the contrary, the Secretariat's capacity to meet its responsibilities in the development sphere needed to be strengthened, particularly in assisting

those countries that required assistance from the international community. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals depended on increasing resources in order to fill the development gap, but those resources remained inadequate. Assistance should be provided to the developing States to enable them to address such new challenges as the food and energy crises and climate change. However, the proportion of resources devoted to development-related activities had fallen over the past decade. For that reason his delegation supported the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report with regard to increasing the resources available for development.

59. Some developed States had made pledges to provide official development assistance amounting to 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product. In many cases those promises had not been met, although his own country had exceeded that goal. Referring to General Assembly resolution 62/187 on the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, he expressed the hope that financing for development would extend to new areas and that the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus would be objectively monitored. The Conference would be taking place at an appropriate time given the urgent need for the international community to review its efforts to promote development and to build on what had been achieved.

60. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) said that the renewed promises of the G8 countries and the political declarations adopted by the General Assembly at the recent High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs, the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals and the mid-term review of the Almaty Programme of Action had demonstrated the importance of the development pillar. She was pleased to note that, at the mid-term review of the Almaty Programme of Action, States had unanimously adopted new modalities of international cooperation for ensuring stable economic growth and redressing trade imbalances for landlocked developing countries. In that regard, Kazakhstan looked forward to continuing its work with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

61. She was pleased to note that budget appropriations for development-related activities had been increased. However, it was doubtful that the

alignment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa under the same leadership could add to the effectiveness and efficiency of either Office. In that regard, she agreed with the Advisory Committee that the organizational changes proposed for the two Offices were inconsistent with the relevant decisions taken by the General Assembly. What was more, those changes would require considerable resources and additional Professional staff to ensure that the two issues, both of which were substantive, received the necessary attention.

62. Kazakhstan called on the Secretary-General to bring his report into line with the latest General Assembly resolutions on NEPAD and the Almaty Programme of Action and urged Member States to carefully consider proposals to enhance development-related mandates and activities from the standpoint of delivering effective, efficient and coordinated results.

63. Lastly, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD, the regional commissions and the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to work to build coherence in United Nations development work.

64. **Mr. Hart** (Nigeria) said that, in 2005, the United Nations had affirmed the key importance of development and its catalytic role in ensuring lasting peace and security. For too long, the United Nations had appeared to focus on peace and security matters, to the detriment of development. Nigeria applauded the Secretary-General's efforts — modest as they were — to strengthen the normative and analytical capacity of the Organization's development pillar.

65. The United Nations resource base for development was experiencing serious constraints. The fact that the appropriation for development-related activities had dropped from 21.8 per cent to 17.8 per cent over the past 10 years demonstrated a lack of political will and a failure to appreciate the growing complexity of development challenges. The marginal increase in the share of the regular budget devoted to development activities from 17.8 per cent to 18.2 per cent did not significantly redress the gross imbalance in the Organization's activities. The United Nations needed more resources for development-related activities, not fewer.

66. The ongoing reforms should lead the Organization to focus on the areas that mattered most, namely sustainable development in the three pillars of economic development, environmental protection and social development. In that connection, there was an urgent need to provide sufficient funding for the Development Account. The results of the past 10 years clearly showed that a piecemeal approach was not working, as the level of the Account was nowhere near the original \$200 million target. Nigeria awaited the Secretary-General's proposals on the Account, as part of the comprehensive proposals for improving the effective and efficient delivery of the development-related mandates.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.