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Chairperson: Ms. Ochir (Mongolia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that Sri Lanka had made significant progress in the areas of health, education and gender, and that its indicators for child and maternal health and access to primary health care were particularly noteworthy in the South Asia region, despite the long-standing and debilitating conflict and other challenges the country had faced.

2. As a middle-income developing country, Sri Lanka had been particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of the multiple global crises, leading it to depend significantly on multilateral trade and the global financial system in order to generate funds to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the light of the stagnation of the Doha Round of trade negotiations and the lack of coherence, representative governance and transparency in the global financial architecture, it was important to re-emphasize the need to strengthen United Nations leadership in promoting development and to enhance coordination, coherence and effectiveness between that system and the multilateral trade and financial institutions.

3. While the recent allocation by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) of substantial special drawing rights to emerging markets and developing countries had helped boost their reserve assets, the Fund must consider a permanent expansion of its resources through a general quota increase, such as by doubling its overall quotas by the end of its next review period in 2011, to reflect current global realities. It was also important to implement a global trading system which was universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, fair and equitable to help foster growth, sustainable development and employment, particularly for small and vulnerable developing countries. In that respect, his Government remained optimistic about an early outcome of the Doha Round.

4. Climate change called for the widest possible cooperation and effective response from the international community, in accordance with countries' common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. In that respect, he was confident that an outcome document could be agreed at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change on the basis of the work of the recent sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention.

5. Technology transfer and financing were key to enabling developing countries to fulfil their goals, while preserving the environment for future generations. His Government would thus support activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus), which must involve local communities and indigenous people, and required adequate, predictable and sustainable financial and technological support.

6. With regard to biological diversity and biosafety, Sri Lanka encouraged bio-prospecting, research based on a strong legal framework to access genetic resources and equitable benefit-sharing, and had started to formulate a domestic legal framework and survey on biotechnology and biosafety as part of the process of launching its national biosafety framework in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. His Government looked forward to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya.

7. It was important for developing countries to adopt innovative approaches in order to share mutual advantages through South-South cooperation. In that respect, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization played an important role in linking such cooperation to sustainable industrial development, such as through its initiative to establish centres for South-South industrial cooperation in China, India and other developing countries. Sri Lanka also encouraged the expansion of national cleaner production centres, which could adopt effective strategies to streamline sustainable consumption and production patterns. Moreover, his country had developed such policies in the health, fisheries and tourism sectors, and had hosted the ninth Asia-Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production in Colombo earlier in the year.

8. Sri Lanka's digital divide had been addressed through the implementation of computer literacy and information technology initiatives in villages, where the majority of the population lived, with the aim of ensuring a 50 per cent computer literacy rate by 2015. Other related initiatives included the establishment of

more than 600 rural telecentres for rural business and knowledge-sharing, a figure which would nearly double by 2011; the setting up of computer centres in 3,500 schools; and plans to set up information communications and technology centres in rural areas to help connect young people to cyberspace.

9. **Ms. Phommachanh** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that her Government supported the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on MDGs. Efforts to implement those measures must be redoubled.

10. Progress in the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 had been uneven and insufficient. The least developed countries continued to be marginalized and had been unable to benefit meaningfully from globalization. Although efforts had been made to increase the development impact of aid through implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the aid to least developed countries to implement the Brussels Programme of Action effectively was not sufficient. Greater international support should be mobilized for that group of countries, for example through the Secretary-General's Group of Eminent Persons for the fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Moreover, that Conference should consider how to accelerate implementation of the MDGs by 2015 and should include the Goals and their targets as an integral part of its outcome document.

11. Despite some progress in the socio-economic development of landlocked developing countries, more needed to be done to make the Almaty Programme of Action a reality, as landlocked developing countries continued to be marginalized in the global economy and extremely vulnerable to external shocks. To overcome those obstacles, additional and predictable development assistance in the form of flexible, concessional financial resources should be increased to assist those countries. Assistance should also be provided for trade facilitation and transport infrastructure development projects at the national, subregional and regional levels to ensure their connectivity to seaports.

12. Laos had completed implementing its five-year socio-economic development plan for 2006-2010 and had started drawing up the next plan for 2011-2015.

Development had been steadily progressing and the economy had grown at an average of 7 per cent annually. Poverty had therefore been declining continuously and the livelihood of the country's multiethnic population had gradually improved. Nevertheless, her country remained vulnerable and required urgent assistance and support from the international community to address the impact of the global financial and economic crisis in the long term. Such support would not only help Laos tackle any future crisis but would also enable it to achieve the MDGs and to graduate from least developed country status by 2020.

13. **Mr. Mugoya** (Uganda) said that Uganda welcomed the renewed commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve the MDGs through the allocation of new and additional resources, as reflected in the outcome document adopted at the recent MDG summit. Urgent collective action was needed to reform the current global economic and financial governance systems, giving priority to enhancing the representation of developing countries in the governance of the international financial system, including in the World Bank and IMF. It was also urgent to establish a global partnership for development based on fairness, equity and mutual benefit for all Member States; developed countries must fulfil their commitments to provide financial assistance, open their markets, transfer technology and relieve debt in order to help developing countries, particularly the least developed ones, to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development; and all trade-distorting measures should be removed, with a fair, open and equitable multilateral trading system upheld.

14. An early conclusion to the Doha Round was needed to provide the much-needed impetus to international markets and help lay the foundation for sustained growth. Developed countries should demonstrate the flexibility and political will required to overcome the current impasse in the negotiations.

15. Despite Uganda's limited development resources, it continued to prioritize funding for infrastructure development, energy, free universal primary and secondary education and the delivery of health services. Its economy had been relatively resilient and the country was on course to achieve Goals 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the MDGs. In the areas of maternal and child health, where Uganda might not achieve the targets, a

national road map had been developed to accelerate the reduction of maternal and child mortality and morbidity. Furthermore, Uganda was ranked among the middle performing countries on the human development index.

16. Efforts towards ensuring positive outcomes at the forthcoming sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must be redoubled, and the international community should fulfil its commitments to assist developing countries in addressing the consequences of climate change, particularly through new, additional and predictable financial resources, capacity-building and the transfer of technology. His Government remained committed to strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation with a view to helping developing countries enhance their participation in the global economy.

17. **Mr. Pierre** (Haiti) said that the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs was the most important event of the current session. The global nature of its agenda had established a frame of reference for the ministerial-level meetings which had followed concerning the small island developing States and the least developed countries. His delegation welcomed the fact that States had renewed their confidence that the MDGs could be achieved by 2015 and their commitments to that end.

18. The devastating earthquake which had struck Haiti in January 2010, one of the worst natural disasters ever to befall mankind, had set the country's already weak economy back by several decades. It was therefore vital to rebuild Haiti and for reconstruction to take into account the need for progress towards the Goals. Efforts to restore pre-quake conditions would merely be stop-gap measures.

19. His Government had been heartened by the display of solidarity towards Haiti, as demonstrated by the pledges of nearly \$9.9 billion over a three-year period made at the Haiti International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti, held at United Nations Headquarters in March 2010. However, funds thus far were only trickling in. While awaiting further donations, his Government had taken various steps to begin socio-economic reconstruction. The Interim Haiti Recovery Commission, comprising international experts and representatives of public and private sector entities and intergovernmental

organizations, had been established to coordinate and oversee recovery and reconstruction efforts. The Commission had approved over 30 projects in such areas as education, health and infrastructure. Their implementation would require approximately \$1 billion. An estimated 1 million Haitians were still living in tents or temporary shelters. His Government was grateful to those donors who had already honoured their pledges in whole or in part and urged others to follow suit without delay.

20. As an island nation, Haiti was particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Some experts predicted that unless action was taken to combat that threat, some countries could simply disappear from the face of the Earth in 50 years. The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in December 2010, should therefore adopt legally binding international rules to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

21. His delegation hoped that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 2011, would take steps to provide those countries with additional resources to facilitate sustainable development.

22. **Mr. António** (Mozambique) said that the outcome document adopted at the recent MDG summit must deliver measurable results that could help improve the lives of millions of people worldwide. The world's recovery from the global financial and economic crisis was fragile and uneven; in particular, more efforts were needed to stimulate job creation and to scale up international development assistance and financial resources, the transfer of technology and technical capacities to developing countries. More investment in productive infrastructure, particularly in agriculture, was also required to produce sufficient food and to boost the export capacity of developing countries, thereby stimulating long-term economic growth and sustainable development for all of humanity.

23. The forthcoming United Nations summits and conferences on economic, social and related matters should be seized as opportunities to strengthen the key role that the United Nations played in global governance. A spirit of common purpose and commitment to reaching consensual decisions should prevail at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention

on Climate Change in order to reach a comprehensive and legally binding agreement that would significantly help to save human lives and ensure the planet's survival. For its part, Mozambique would soon adopt a national mitigation and adoption plan in response to climate change.

24. His delegation also hoped that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries would yield a meaningful plan of action to reduce the current economic and social imbalances and speed up progress towards the MDGs; that Agenda 21 would be reviewed and implemented in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; and that consensus could be reached to enable implementation of the Doha Development Agenda.

25. Mozambique's stable political and social environment had enabled it to consolidate sound macroeconomic progress and thus improve economic growth. Achieving balanced income distribution and the required development levels for all citizens were among the Government's top priorities. His Government would also continue to make an active contribution towards making the work of the United Nations system at the country level more relevant and responsive to national development plans and strategies. It also strongly supported the promotion of the subregional and regional socio-economic integration, particularly the efforts of the Southern African Development Community and the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

26. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives) said that following his country's first democratic elections ever, held in 2008, the Government had adopted an approach to development based on empowering the people by promoting human rights, decentralizing Government, privatizing industry and promoting small and medium-sized enterprises, free markets and free trade. In close collaboration with IMF, it had begun to take steps to reduce the deficit inherited from the previous regime. In addition, efficiency gains had been achieved across the public service and tax reform, and strategic privatization of key utilities had been instituted. The Maldives had made significant progress with respect to poverty eradication, primary education, child mortality, health and disease, and had already achieved five of the eight MDGs.

27. Although it was a positive sign that the Maldives would graduate from the list of least developed

countries at the end of the year, his country's socio-economic development programme would lose the critical support that it had been receiving from the international community while in that category. Moreover, as a small island developing State, the Maldives was extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Moving up to the category of a middle-income country would not alter that fact. Its economic base, tourism and fisheries, and livelihoods were dependent on its coral reefs, whose survival prospects were grim given predicted rises in sea temperature. Any such rise would deal a crippling blow to the economy. The Maldives also was highly vulnerable to an increase in sea level and storm conditions.

28. Climate change and sustainable development must not be dealt with separately. His delegation therefore welcomed the statements during the Committee's current debate acknowledging the link between the natural environment and socio-economic progress. Beyond its vulnerability to climate change, the Maldives faced structural impediments to growth, including small population size, limited economies of scale, geographical remoteness from trade routes, and limited factors of production and natural resources. The international community must move beyond the debate about vulnerabilities and turn its full attention to following through on pledges made to support the sustainable development of small island developing States.

29. The current institutional architecture was vastly underequipped to deal with the unique challenges faced by small island developing States, many of which risked being overlooked by virtue of their middle-income-country status. His delegation joined other countries pressing for greater acknowledgement of and sensitivity to the vulnerabilities of middle-income countries and those with special needs resulting from particular geographical circumstances, in order to help them consolidate the progress made and avoid backsliding. In addition, measurement criteria concerning the economic sustainability of small island developing States should be re-evaluated and a formal category for those States established within the United Nations system to provide improved access to concessionary financing and grant funding for small, highly indebted and vulnerable States.

30. **Mr. Cuello Camilo** (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation attached the utmost importance to the achievement of the MDGs. Policies in support of

education, gender equality, maternal and child health, reasonably priced access to medication for persons with HIV and basic sanitation services must be incorporated in national and regional development strategies. He reiterated the call by the Secretary-General at the recent MDG summit for the international community to allocate \$250 million annually to help the developing countries achieve the Goals.

31. Equitable tax policies should be adopted, along with measures to prevent tax evasion, the losses from which exceeded the external debt burden of many developing countries. It was also imperative to bolster the resilience of those countries to the extremely negative impact of the ongoing international economic and financial crisis and the destabilizing effects of increased commodity prices.

32. Developing countries urgently needed to adopt policies and practices to anticipate the impact of natural disasters. Such steps included integrating risk management with development planning; allocating public and private funds for those purposes; practising sound land management; establishing early warning systems in coastal zones, at-risk cities, schools and hospitals; and adapting critical infrastructure to resist future disasters. Such measures were essential in order to minimize loss of life; provide basic health services, water and power; and enable countries to continue to function after disaster had struck by guaranteeing food, security and democratic governance.

33. For those reasons, the Dominican Republic planned to play a more active role in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, which would hold its next session in May 2011. In addition, his delegation had proposed the establishment of a world alliance of countries at risk whose members would share their experience and best practices in order to minimize the vulnerability of their populations. The alliance could work with the global rapid reaction mechanism proposed by the delegation of Turkey. The Committee's deliberations would provide useful input for further consideration of both proposals.

34. Ongoing public investment in education was essential in order to ensure equal opportunities for all. A well-educated workforce would improve competitiveness. The Dominican Republic had adopted a ten-year higher education plan for the period 2008-2018 that was designed to transform the university curriculum with a view to placing cutting-edge

scientific and technological advances in the service of national development. That would in turn lead to increased worker productivity and, over time, attract investment leading to still further competitive advantages.

35. The global economy had not yet emerged from the economic and financial crisis that had originated in certain developed countries. However, some countries were reacting by implementing extreme austerity policies that risked undermining the recovery of the real economy. It was therefore regrettable that multilateral financial institutions were again imposing conditionalities that would do little to attract investment, reduce unemployment or address the cumulative social debt borne by those most affected by adjustment costs.

36. An optimum debt sustainability policy would foster sustainable economic growth, create decent jobs, provide a social safety net to meet the needs of people living in extreme poverty and promote sufficient public investment to guarantee sustained growth without causing inflationary excesses. External debt would always constitute a declining proportion of national output. Accordingly, if the developing countries wished to be in a position to pay their external debt in the future they should resist any restrictions on growth. Now more than ever, sustainable development must provide the overarching framework for all international efforts in support of development.

37. As a small island developing State, the Dominican Republic attached particular importance to the Committee's deliberations in preparation for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in 2010, and for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012.

38. Those conferences should pave the way for national economies to establish a solid foundation for the pursuit of green growth, environmental sustainability and sustainable social development. States would then be in a position to take steps to ensure food security, renewable energy, conservation of forest resources, environmental mitigation and adaptation and technology transfers to slow and reverse the impact of climate change.

39. **Mr. Vásquez Romero** (El Salvador) said that despite the serious impact of the economic and financial crisis on El Salvador's efforts to achieve the MDGs, his country would continue to work to attain them. Social inclusion was the backbone of its strategy to that end.

40. The costs of meeting the Goals placed a heavy burden on his country's economy, and he urged the developed countries to honour their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) as official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries by 2015. Voluntary innovative finance mechanisms for development should continue and should supplement, but not serve as a substitute for, ODA commitments.

41. Turning to the question of international migration and development, he said that over one third of the population of El Salvador lived abroad and that his delegation would therefore continue to advocate on behalf of migrants in the Committee.

42. With regard to South-South cooperation, the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation held in 2009 had provided valuable guidelines which the Committee should take into account in its deliberations.

43. El Salvador attached high priority to developing the capacity to benefit from innovative technologies for development. Countries such as his required additional international cooperation in the form of technology transfers focusing on the productive and education sectors.

44. Sustainable development was an item of utmost importance to his country and he therefore hoped that the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would result in significant progress. He also looked forward to the successful conclusion of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

45. His delegation hoped that the Commission on Sustainable Development would adopt a consensus on the themes to be discussed at its nineteenth session in 2011 and looked forward to participating in preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012.

46. El Salvador had been experiencing more frequent and increasingly severe natural disasters. The

resolutions which the Committee adopted on climate change should highlight the impact of such disasters on the economies of developing countries and should address food security, internal displacement and the increase in migration.

47. **Mr. Kimani** (Kenya) said that the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs had acknowledged that most countries were at risk of missing the target date of 2015. Consequently, its outcome document had emphasized the need for an urgent action plan and a scaling up of global partnerships for development. The Committee had a key role to play in ensuring that such issues were given the utmost attention.

48. In the area of trade, the Doha Development Agenda should be concluded with a development dimension that would successfully integrate poor countries into the global economy. Furthermore, development support should enhance such countries' productive capacities and expand their infrastructure.

49. Debt servicing was increasingly diverting resources from priority sectors; hence the need to provide alternative measures for countries which were not beneficiaries of existing debt relief initiatives. Debt sustainability should be defined in terms of a country's capacity to meet the MDGs by 2015.

50. The third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook warned that a massive further loss of biodiversity was increasingly likely. Member States had a responsibility to reverse that trend through concerted and targeted efforts to meet the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. As a mega-diverse country, Kenya expected the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to provide an action-oriented outcome with a view to implementing those objectives and concluding the protocol on access and benefit-sharing.

51. Climate change continued to undermine and even reverse the gains achieved. While Kenya had developed a national climate change response strategy, implementation was proving difficult due to a lack of financial support, capacity-building and technology transfer. The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should result in a balanced outcome based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

52. The current international environmental governance architecture had numerous and duplicative institutions and instruments. Kenya therefore supported the incremental reforms being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme to make it more effective and responsive in discharging its mandate as the principal United Nations organ in the environmental field.

53. **Mr. Madani** (Afghanistan) recalled that at the time of the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, Afghanistan had been isolated from the international community by the Taliban regime, which had denied the Afghan people even the most basic human rights. In 2001, following the overthrow of the Taliban, Afghanistan had slowly begun to rebuild through a series of policies aimed at comprehensively stabilizing the political, social and economic situation, both nationally and regionally. In 2004, Afghanistan had been able to join the rest of the international community in committing to the MDGs, with an adjusted target date of 2020. The Committee should therefore give due consideration to those countries that were lagging behind others in achieving their Goals.

54. Issues related to the ongoing financial and economic crisis had an enormous impact on the development agendas of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and needed to be addressed seriously. The Committee must also take into consideration some of the world's most difficult and pressing development issues, including poverty eradication, the fight against hunger and disease, environmental degradation, and the promotion of gender equality, education and health.

55. Poverty reduction could be achieved only through effective cooperation among both developed and developing countries. Recent years had seen a reduction in ODA, a trend that must be reversed. At the same time, more needed to be done to ensure effective utilization of that assistance. Donor countries should consider channelling greater portions of their assistance through the core national budgets of developing countries.

56. Emerging from the ruins of war, Afghanistan had made enormous strides in the past decade, but the complex issue of security greatly hampered the Government's implementation of its development policies. The impact of security on the development of

post-conflict countries should therefore also be given due consideration by the Committee.

57. **Mr. Hijazi** (Observer for Palestine) said that the recent multiple crises could clearly only be overcome with the necessary political will and through open and inclusive dialogue. Previously agreed-on commitments must therefore be fulfilled, if confidence in multilateral forums was to be maintained.

58. Palestine shared many of the challenges confronting other developing economies. However, the unique position of the Palestinian people, whose development and economy were stifled by a foreign military occupation, made Palestine especially vulnerable. Israel had systematically confiscated Palestinian land to build illegal settlements while imposing punitive restrictions on Palestinian development efforts. Those illegal policies had unravelled Palestine's economy and plunged its population into a state of imposed poverty and hunger.

59. The international community had recognized Palestine's determined efforts to complete its plans to build functional and accountable institutions for a Palestinian State. The Palestinian National Authority had made great headway in its fiscal reforms and social safety net, while the economy continued to recover from years of battery and siege. The latest reports predicted that growth in gross domestic product (GDP) would reach 8 per cent in the current year. In line with the resilient and entrepreneurial nature of the Palestinian people, studies showed a steady increase in the number of registered new enterprises in the West Bank. Those were mostly in the commerce and services sectors because Israeli restrictions continued to discourage investments in the production sectors.

60. In June 2010, Palestine had reported on its progress towards attaining the MDGs. Universal primary education and gender equality in education had already been achieved, and great strides were being made in improving maternal health care. The Palestinian National Authority would continue to strive to shoulder its responsibilities to deliver social justice and equality to the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

61. Palestine's aspirations extended far beyond the confines of policies imposed by the occupying Power. The latest report of the World Bank had recognized the Palestinian National Authority's achievements. However, the World Bank had also concluded that as

long as the occupation and its policies continued, Palestinians would remain donor-dependent and their institutions would not be able to underpin a viable State. For example, private investment continued to be hampered by mobility restrictions as well as by the risk of new restrictions being introduced at any moment. The economic and humanitarian situation in Gaza also continued to worsen. Although funds had been allocated for economic rehabilitation and reconstruction, the blockade and closures imposed on the Occupied Palestinian Territory had prevented those funds from having a sufficient economic impact.

62. The Climate Change Conference to be held shortly in Cancún and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio in 2012, would provide valuable opportunities to step up the efforts to combat climate change and poverty. In that regard, Palestine called on Member States to bolster their valuable support for the right of occupied peoples to protect their environment and natural resources from illegal exploitation and degradation and their right to development. That principle was enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and Palestine looked forward to its renewed endorsement.

63. Lastly, Palestine urged Committee members to actively support agenda item 60, entitled “Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources”, which safeguarded the rights and resources essential to Palestinian development and State-building efforts.

64. **Mr. de Looz Karageorgiades** (Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta) said that the Order continued to remain faithful to its historic mission to serve the poor and the sick and assist the helpless and refugees, whatever their race, religion or origin. The Order, which was a subject of international law, enjoyed diplomatic relations with over 100 countries and maintained a presence on five continents. Its 13,000 members, all of whom were volunteers, its 80,000 permanent volunteers and its medical staff formed a network that provided medical and humanitarian assistance in 120 countries.

65. The Order’s activities were based on the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Malteser International, the international arm of the Order and its provider of humanitarian aid

worldwide, assisted 200 projects in 20 countries and had been a partner of the European Union since 1994. He described activities of the Order in Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Palestine. In conclusion, he emphasized that children were the world’s future.

66. **Ms. Stewart** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that the recently published World of Work Report 2010 acknowledged that three years into the financial crisis, the global economy had resumed growing, but that new clouds had emerged on the employment horizon and the prospects had worsened significantly in many countries. Citing statistics bearing out that assessment, she said that careful policy decisions were critical for resolving the jobs crisis. The ILO Global Jobs Pact provided a realistic set of labour policy measures that countries could adapt to their national circumstances. Those policies must be considered alongside sound macroeconomic policies. Fiscal stimulus definitely was still needed. Premature fiscal retrenchment could damage growth and lead to ever larger deficits and debts. Accordingly, the Committee should give careful consideration to those inter-related issues at the current session.

67. ILO was encouraged by the policy measures contained in the outcome document adopted at the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, particularly the acknowledgment that greater employment opportunities for women and men based on the Decent Work Agenda and through enhanced access to a social protection floor could accelerate the achievement of the Goals.

68. Decisive action was needed on the climate challenge and such action should not wait for global economic and labour-market recovery. By redressing the historical imbalance between economic, social and environmental policies, the international community could turn the climate crisis into an opportunity to speed up the transition to low-carbon, high-employment, poverty-reducing economies. Through the Green Jobs Initiative and the ILO Global Programme on Green Jobs, the world of work was actively contributing towards achieving that goal. ILO looked forward to further discussion of the subject in the preparatory process leading up to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

69. **Ms. Mosquini** (Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)) said that IFRC fully agreed with delegations that had underscored the importance of maintaining a persistent focus on sustainable development despite and, indeed, in light of, the challenges posed by concurrent crises. IFRC took a people-centred approach to development, meaning that all people should be able to achieve their full potential and lead productive and creative lives with dignity, according to their needs and choices, while fulfilling their obligations and realizing their rights.

70. IFRC and its national societies worked through the Federation's global network of community-based volunteers to empower communities and individuals as partners in development. They worked with authorities to upgrade water and sanitation facilities and trained local populations as operators; provided training in home care management to improve maternal and child health; and worked with authorities and communities to address the critical challenges of food insecurity and climate change. Examples of such efforts included activities of the Mongolian Red Cross to help the Mongolian Government build a more economically sustainable lifestyle for pastoralists and the work of Kenya Red Cross volunteers to promote hygiene and pandemic influenza preparedness.

71. For the first time in the history of mankind, more people lived in an urban environment than a rural one and in just 20 years over 60 per cent of the world's population would live in cities and towns. That shift required a change in development strategy. In addition, the urban risk divide would only grow wider as climate change led to increasingly severe disaster impacts in some of the world's most vulnerable locations. IFRC had chosen urban risk as the theme for its current World Disasters Report. That document explored the different facets of the risk and presented recommendations to reduce it and build resilience.

72. **Mr. Molina Cruz** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), citing statistics demonstrating the severity of the world food crisis, said that there was a consensus on the need to pay greater attention to agriculture in development policies in order to tackle the root causes of food insecurity and hunger. To that end, success stories in Africa, Asia and Latin America should be replicated and scaled up. FAO and partner agencies were collaborating to that end, and existing United Nations

resolutions on agriculture, food security, technology development and the right to food represented a step in the right direction. The Committee's deliberations under agenda item 26, agriculture development and food security, would provide an opportunity to examine the policies and institutional frameworks that could promote investment in the agricultural sector, particularly with respect to the development, transfer and sharing of technology.

73. Since women comprised 51 per cent of the agricultural workforce worldwide and participated in all stages of food production, gender equality was an important factor in achieving sustainable food security. FAO would contribute to the debate by drawing on lessons learned and best practices gained through its field programme.

74. FAO and partner agencies would meet prior to the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to discuss policies, mechanisms and best practices to foster agriculture and food security in those countries. Under the Voluntary Guidelines initiative, FAO, in partnership with United Nations system agencies and key international financial institutions, would convene a panel discussion in 2011 on land tenure, responsible land governance and international investment in agriculture. The event represented a broad commitment to supporting member countries in those areas.

75. In conclusion, he urged the Committee to commit to the total eradication of world hunger and invited members to sign the One Billion Hungry petition and to join FAO and others in the observance of World Food Day at the United Nations on 4 November 2010, the theme of which was "United Against Hunger".

76. **The Chairperson**, summing up the general debate, said that many delegations had noted the success of the recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs and the urgent need for implementation of its outcome. She urged delegations to incorporate the main elements from the outcome document in the relevant draft resolutions that they would be preparing, focusing particularly on accelerating implementation.

77. Second, many delegations had underscored the importance of the forthcoming deliberations on climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development. Sustainable development was a great challenge for all nations, and human life and the planet's sustainability depended on agreed targets for the reduction of

greenhouse gas emissions and on accelerating implementation of the agreements already reached.

78. Third, many delegations had pointed out that the recovery from the current global financial and economic crisis was weak and uneven. There had been a strong call for assistance to those countries hit particularly hard, as well as a reaffirmation of commitments from development partner countries. The Committee had also heard from many countries in special situations about the challenges they faced. The impacts of the global financial, economic, food, energy and climate crises were affecting those countries greatly. Nevertheless, many were making their contribution to environmental protection, in particular through efforts to conserve biodiversity. With regard to small island developing States, the Committee's deliberations would build on the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/65/L.2). For the least developed countries, the Committee would contribute to the preparations for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

79. Fourth, many delegations had pointed out the negative consequences of the impasse in the Doha Round, calling for their swift conclusion with results that would contribute towards development. The Committee's strong voice should contribute to a swift completion, which was greatly needed by many, particularly by low-income countries. With regard to global economic governance, she noted that many delegations had praised and called for the continuation of the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference of the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development. She had also noted the call by many delegations for a follow-up conference in 2012.

80. Finally, a strong recognition had emerged of the importance of South-South, triangular and other forms of cooperation and experience-sharing as effective ways for accelerating implementation and promoting development. That recognition should be appropriately reflected in the Committee's subsequent discussions as well as in the resolutions to be adopted.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.