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Chairperson: Ms. Ochir (Mongolia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Ntwaagae** (Botswana) said that development was the socio-economic and moral fibre binding developing nations together with their wealthier partners. Botswana had benefited from the development assistance provided by Member States and had done its best to maximize the impact of that assistance.

2. Botswana was trusted by the international community because of its prudent management of limited resources and pursuit of dynamic macroeconomic policies, as well as its good governance and respect for the rule of law. Consequently, Botswana, previously one of the world's poorest countries, had attained middle-income status. The greatest challenge that it continued to face was a reduced capacity to increase its growth and diversify its economy. The vulnerability of its economy, which was heavily dependent on a single commodity export, was displayed during the recent global economic crisis.

3. Despite Botswana's efforts to ensure the sustainable use of available resources, it had not been spared the vagaries of the contemporary world economy, in which the fate of a small, remote State could be so calamitously affected by the risky behaviour prevalent in the more advanced economies. As a result of that behaviour, middle-income countries were forced to contend with higher costs of borrowing in order to stimulate their economies.

4. Botswana called on the international financial institutions to increase the participation of middle-income countries in decision-making and norm-setting. It was necessary to facilitate the timely detection of vulnerabilities and external threats through well designed early warning systems. Those systems should be more rigorous in the case of more sophisticated and developed economies.

5. The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Cancún in December 2010, provided an opportunity to further the objectives that had begun to be addressed at the previous session in Copenhagen. In addition, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, provided an excellent

opportunity to translate biodiversity conservation policies and programmes into action.

6. Given Botswana's reliance on its biological resources for its development and its people's livelihoods, greater assistance was needed in areas such as technology transfer and capacity-building in order to help local communities respond and adapt to climate change and new methods of conservation, and to protect biodiversity through sustainable use.

7. Delivery had been emphasized as a key word at many high-level events, conferences and summits. The Second Committee should endeavour to do its part to achieve progress in addressing the issues before it. The results of the Committee should therefore be measured by its willingness to reach compromise solutions. Any postponement due to disagreements over wording was a bridge too far for many of the persons whom the delegates to the Committee had the privilege of representing, and to whom they must always remain accountable.

8. **Mr. Osman** (Sudan) said that with the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) less than five years away, many of the Goals continued to be at risk owing to inadequate funding and economic instability. Declining ODA, unfair trade conditions and growing indebtedness among developing countries were all threatening to widen the gap between the rich and poor still further.

9. His country which supported South-South cooperation and regional economic integration, participated in numerous joint projects with its neighbours. Recent successes, such as the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Darfur Peace Agreement and the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement, as well as the promulgation of an interim Constitution, had improved the prospects for further development in his country. However, unilateral sanctions, a decline in aid and a heavy debt burden continued to be obstacles to development.

10. Lastly, as his country was also among those most affected by climate change, he hoped that the programme of national adaptation measures that it had submitted to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would be adequately supported by the funding mechanisms created by that Convention.

11. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that the best way to avoid recessions even more severe than the present one was to overhaul the world's systems of financial and economic governance. The repercussions of the economic crisis had been especially severe for the poorest countries, particularly in Africa, where economic growth had fallen, exports had declined, unemployment remained high and inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) had dropped by 11 per cent.

12. The High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs, held in September 2010, had clearly demonstrated that sustained economic growth required a new global partnership in which the political and economic reforms undertaken by the developing countries would be accompanied by significant aid, provided by the developed countries, which should establish the requisite facilities.

13. The commitment of the developed countries could be materialized by, inter alia: facilitating access to the markets of the developed countries, particularly of agricultural products; progressing towards a moratorium on the debt of struggling developing countries, in addition to the measures taken thus far to forgive or reduce the debt burden of the poorest countries; and encouraging industrialized countries to increase flows of FDI and official development assistance (ODA) to the poorest countries.

14. While trade alone could not remedy all of the difficulties experienced by developing countries, it remained a powerful tool for economic growth and poverty reduction. Therefore, a way needed to be found to integrate more countries into the global marketplace and improve the transparency, predictability and stability of world trade, including through the reform of the governance of the Bretton Woods institutions. Such reform should render those institutions more effective, legitimate and representative. The General Assembly remained the appropriate forum for initiating that process.

15. It was regrettable that the commitments of the Monterrey Consensus had not been fulfilled. Developing countries were still experiencing enormous shortfalls in financing due to a significant reduction in FDI inflows, financial transfers and export revenue.

16. While innovative sources of financing might complement traditional sources, the developed countries should not be released from their ODA commitments. Despite global progress made towards

the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, more than 1 billion people were still destitute. Even though food production had increased in recent years, price spikes and the economic crisis had increased the number of people suffering from hunger and food insecurity.

17. Information and communications technologies had become an essential tool in the improvement of political, administrative and economic governance. Consequently, it was necessary to overcome the primary obstacles preventing developing countries from gaining access to new technologies. Those obstacles included insufficient resources, infrastructure and investment, and issues involving intellectual property, standardization and technology transfer.

18. It had been decisively demonstrated that the industrialized countries were primarily responsible for causing climate change. The developing countries of Africa in particular were experiencing the negative effects of global warming more than other regions. In that context, it was necessary to redouble efforts so that, during the next session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a legally binding and inclusive agreement might be established.

19. In that regard, it was vital for such an agreement to specify the multiple types of support to be provided to developing countries, in terms of technology transfer and financial flows, to enable them to adapt to climate change. Such an approach should enable the international community to address both the causes and consequences of climate change, particularly desertification.

20. In addition, the holding of a high-level event on biodiversity several weeks prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, had provided a valuable opportunity to call on the international community to further mobilize efforts to protect the Earth's biological resources. It was necessary to strengthen the role of the United Nations in protecting the biodiversity of developing countries and in promoting mutually beneficial development.

21. Lastly, he reiterated Algeria's commitment to take concrete measures to achieve sustainable development while ensuring a balance between its three pillars, namely economic development, social development and the environment, within the framework of the

principles of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account the Rio principles.

22. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) said that the world was standing at the threshold of a fairer and more honest economic and development reality. It was a time for radical change, dramatic shifts in priorities and a new focus on the human dimension in economic growth and development. The United Nations was built on the pillars of sustainable social and economic development, security and human rights, which in turn rested on a foundation of respect for every country and human being.

23. The world was slowly emerging from one of the worst financial and economic crises in history. It was essential to develop a post-crisis model of development that was not limited to cosmetic measures and that would produce a qualitative restructuring of the entire system of international economic relations.

24. Kazakhstan believed that the world's economic problems were rooted in the inefficiency of its monetary system, which was under no one's control, and which was neither fair nor democratic. The President of Kazakhstan had proposed the development of a completely new financial architecture with a global regulatory system to oversee financial markets. The time had come to study innovative ideas on re-engineering the world financial system.

25. The process of reforming the Bretton Woods institutions should be intensified and enhanced so as to improve their working methods, responsiveness and fairness. Real and radical reforms were needed without delay in order to prevent recent economic history from repeating itself.

26. Achieving the MDGs was a moral and political imperative to ensure a better future for all humanity. In order to achieve those Goals, developing countries needed to have the same ability to benefit from the global economy as developed countries.

27. The role of the United Nations clearly needed to be strengthened in the area of international finance, and international coordination was needed in order to put the world economy on a robust, sustainable and more balanced growth path. Kazakhstan attached particular importance to the speedy completion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations. In addition, measures must be taken to bridge the technology gap between countries.

28. Since its independence in 1991, Kazakhstan's progress in the areas of reform, development and

modernization had demonstrated that the MDGs were achievable. Its success had been made possible through strong political will, clear development guidelines and close international cooperation. Over the past decade, Kazakhstan had seen a four-fold decrease in the number of people with incomes below the subsistence minimum, hunger had ceased to be an important issue and spending on education and health had been rising steadily. The goal of universal primary education had been reached: nearly 100 per cent of Kazakh young people attended secondary school and the country's literacy rate stood at 99.6 per cent. Health indicators had improved significantly, life expectancy had increased and maternal mortality had been halved. Particular importance had been given to increasing women's participation in the political life of the State. In many areas, Kazakhstan had committed itself to reaching even more significant development goals.

29. Kazakhstan was successfully implementing a sustainable development strategy, which would be fully in place by 2020. Its President's "green bridge" initiative was designed to establish a broad platform for cooperation between Europe and Asia on the protection of transboundary ecosystems and on adaptation to climate change.

30. While the main responsibility for achieving the MDGs lay with individual countries, the international community could and should support national efforts. In order to achieve the MDGs worldwide, the quantity and quality of ODA must be increased.

31. Kazakhstan had recently become a donor State by assisting individual countries in Central Asia. For example, it had provided some \$50 million in grants to train thousands of Afghan professionals in Kazakh schools. Kazakhstan also intended to provide active support to United Nations activities aimed at promoting the interests of landlocked countries.

32. The United Nations was the only forum where the world could come together to reinvent the global financial architecture. That could only be accomplished through innovation, wisdom, courage and compassion. The human element in all finance and development issues must not be forgotten.

33. **Mr. Benítez Versón** (Cuba) recalled that the Committee's discussions were once again being held in a context of multiple crises requiring urgent action from the international community.

34. In that regard, the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Cancún in December 2010, must reach an agreement on the measures needed to combat climate change, including an unequivocal commitment on the part of the developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

35. Member States, particularly in the South, had recently expressed concern about the devastating effects of the global financial and economic crisis on development efforts. Those who insisted on painting an optimistic picture had been unable to explain the broadening North-South gap, why the number of people suffering from extreme hunger had increased to 1.02 billion in 2009 or why 100,000 people died of hunger every day. Nor could they explain why the crisis would cause an estimated annual average of 200,000 to 400,000 more child deaths between 2009 and 2015, or why 1.1 billion people had no access to potable water. The answer lay in the current unjust and undemocratic international order, which was based on highly unsustainable consumption and distribution patterns. Its radical transformation was a moral imperative, as well as politically, economically and socially logical.

36. His delegation reiterated its call for an assessment of the content of the Committee's discussions, resolutions and decisions, which must be clear, direct, bold and creative. The trite and often meaningless formulations whereby the Committee's texts were sacrificed in the name of achieving an ever-more fragile consensus did not advance its work. Nor did they serve the legitimate needs of the peoples represented by the delegates.

37. He noted that it would fall to the developing nations represented in the Group of 77 and China to submit to the Committee most of the draft resolutions to be negotiated. That great effort must be respected and reciprocated by developed countries at the negotiating table. The latter must engage in an open, frank and respectful dialogue.

38. For more than five decades, Cuba had endured the economic, commercial and financial embargo criminally imposed upon it by the Government of the United States of America. Nevertheless, Cuba had achieved significant successes in its economic and social development, as evidenced by its third national progress report on the MDGs.

39. Lastly, he stressed that Cuba was a staunch defender of the need for a new international economic order based on justice, equity and solidarity.

40. **Mr. Loayza Barea** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that ongoing dialogue was needed in order to ensure effective financing for development, a key to attaining the MDGs. 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 on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development was crucial to addressing the serious economic problems confronting the world, especially the developing countries. A satisfactory conclusion to the Doha Round would boost their external trade and make them more attractive to foreign investors. Based on human rights, economic policies should focus on persons and the environment, not banks or enterprises. Special attention should be paid to the landlocked developing countries, whose plight was compounded by the crisis.

41. Biological diversity was in danger as humanity consumed the Earth's resources faster than they could be regenerated. Humanity should relearn to live in harmony with nature. Human beings lived on a finite planet and development was subject to the limits imposed by nature's regenerative capacity. The current model of capitalist production and consumption was untenable, unsustainable and self-destructive. Humanity should seek to satisfy fundamental human needs, while causing minimum damage to Mother Earth. Gross domestic product (GDP), an exclusively economic indicator, was no longer an appropriate measurement because it failed to reflect sustainability. Use should be made of other indicators, which took into account both development and harmony with nature. The planet could exist without human beings but they could not live without Mother Earth. Nature could not be treated as a commodity.

42. Any plan to restore damage to biodiversity must recognize the States' sovereign entitlement to their natural resources. The United Nations must acknowledge the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly their right to the Earth. An international climate and environmental justice tribunal should be set up to punish crimes against nature. Moreover, a mechanism was needed to ensure compliance with commitments made under international agreements on biodiversity, desertification and climate change.

43. The food crisis had resulted from speculation in food prices, biofuel crop cultivation, climate change, and the replacement of local foodstuffs with industrialized and non-environmentally friendly ones.

Food security would be achieved through the provision of healthy and nutritious food and the preservation of crops conducive to rural development in harmony with nature, such as the quinoa, which the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations regarded as the crop of the future. During the current session of the Committee, Bolivia would present a draft resolution to declare 2012 the International Year of Quinoa.

44. **Mr. Al Nafisee** (Saudi Arabia) said that international cooperation was needed to make sure that the recent crises did not reverse progress towards the MDGs. His country had already exceeded many of the MDG targets and was contributing heavily to development elsewhere. Over the previous three decades Saudi Arabia had provided close to 100 billion dollars in development aid to almost 100 countries around the world. Its ODA budget was more than double the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI). It had also been quick to provide relief for disasters, such as the recent earthquake in Haiti and the flooding in Pakistan.

45. He expressed concern about the selective climate change policies of some industrialized countries. The proper response to global warming was not to abandon fossil fuels but to make greater use of clean fossil fuel technology. At the same time, his country was investing in alternative energy sources such as solar and wind power. Saudi Arabia was also a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, and hoped that the forthcoming sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would lay the groundwork for the conclusion of a new agreement on greenhouse gas emissions by 2012. However, the proposals for such an agreement put forward by certain States were inconsistent with the Framework Convention and the Bali Action Plan. Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions should be voluntary and funded by the Parties included in Annex II of the Convention. He called on the developed countries to announce emissions ceilings separately prior to the conclusion of any post-Kyoto agreement.

46. **Mr. Jgenti** (Georgia) said that the attainment of the MDGs required local ownership. Since 2003, Georgia had made considerable progress in reducing poverty; providing education, employment and shelter; improving maternal and child health; combating HIV/AIDS; and introducing sustainable environmental

practices. His Government had focused on rapid economic development and job creation by promoting an investment climate attractive to FDI; it had reformed the pension system; and it had expanded the social safety net for socially vulnerable groups.

47. Nevertheless, further poverty reduction efforts were necessary. As a key element of the Government's economic vision, the national education system was being improved, including through school self-governance. A massive overhaul of the country's health-care system was also under way, transparency in health insurance and the pharmaceutical market was being enhanced, and a comprehensive national HIV/AIDS prevention programme, including targeted and awareness-raising activities, was being implemented. Maternal and child health was promoted with the private sector's substantial involvement in sustainable countrywide measures. All such progress was driven by both women and men reformers. Accordingly, women had many opportunities to participate actively in the economy and in political life.

48. Lastly, he wished to point out that, over the past four years, Georgia had been suffering from an economic embargo unilaterally imposed by its northern neighbour. The ban concerned all imports of Georgian products, transport and postal communication; and a strict visa regime applied to Georgian citizens. However, Georgia had proved resilient to these unilateral sanctions and had desisted from retaliation.

49. **Ms. Morgan Sotomayor** (Mexico) said that the MDGs were only a basic framework, a minimum set of tasks, that would enable populations in vulnerable situations to have a better life. The recent MDG summit had demonstrated the commitment of political leaders to the development agenda. The time had come to implement and move forward on the agreed agenda.

50. As the host of the fourth meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, to take place in November 2010, Mexico stressed the need to take a multidimensional approach to the challenges of international migration by establishing partnerships that promoted the links between migration and human development. Focusing on human rights was essential to draw fully on the potential of migration for development.

51. The current session would be an opportunity to complete the first cycle of the strengthened follow-up process on the financing for development agenda. In

Mexico's view, the Committee's discussions should draw on the substantive items brought up in the fourth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the excellent discussions during the Council's substantive session in July 2010. She hoped that it would be possible to agree on a substantive resolution that strengthened the follow-up on financing for development in a holistic manner.

52. As the host country of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mexico was making every effort to ensure that tangible results were achieved in Cancún. The Conference would be an opportunity to adopt a wide and balanced range of decisions, as one single action or one single agreement would not be sufficient to deal with such a complex phenomenon. The international arrangements in that area must keep pace with advances in science and in socio-economic development and be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Recognizing that the Framework Convention was the primary discussion forum, climate change discussions within the Committee should help to mobilize the political will needed to make the Conference of the Parties a success.

53. Almost a decade since the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg and almost two decades since the Earth Summit in Rio, the current session provided an opportunity to review the advances made in the implementation of Agenda 21. Now, more than ever, the international community needed to seize the opportunity to revitalize its commitment to sustainable development and the Rio principles.

54. The Committee also had an opportunity to reflect in its work the call for actions to safeguard life on Earth, as formulated by Heads of State and Government at the recently concluded high-level event on biodiversity. For its part, Mexico called for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to adopt an ambitious strategic plan and programme of work linked to an effective resource mobilization strategy. Mexico also called for the successful conclusion of the long-awaited protocol on access and benefit-sharing. At the national level, Mexico intended to make the conservation and rational use of biodiversity a central aspect of sustainable development.

55. Since the Committee had the responsibility of establishing the Organization's position on the topics on its agenda, the Committee's working methods must be effective and efficient. The Committee should avoid duplicative discussion and work in a spirit of cooperation. At the same time, there was room for certain decisions simply to be taken on the authority of the Chairperson of the Committee, thereby avoiding lengthy debate.

56. **Mr. Bui The Giang** (Viet Nam) said that the general debate was benefiting greatly from the recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, which had provided a comprehensive review of the world economy, particularly the recognition that the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger had surpassed 1 billion and that the economic and financial crisis had reversed many development gains. It was therefore important that adequate resources should be made available for development agendas. To that end, developed countries should honour their commitments to increase ODA, promote trade, reschedule debt and facilitate participation by developing countries in the international financial architecture. At the same time, developing countries should strengthen ownership, enhance capacity and improve governance, efficiency and performance in economic and financial operations, including making more efficient use of increasingly scarce resources.

57. Frameworks for fruitful international cooperation and collaboration free from conditionality should be consolidated on a basis of mutual interest, mutual respect and accountability. Global partnerships for development needed to be supportive of national development priorities, and the contribution that regional organizations could make to regional socio-economic issues should be duly recognized.

58. The United Nations should be the linchpin of development agenda operations and multilateral mechanisms. Its role should be strengthened so as to generate feasible development solutions and programmes, and to tap the resources needed to ensure their implementation. The Organization should also play a fundamental role in reforming the global governance structure.

59. Attaching great importance to the achievement of the MDGs, the Government of Viet Nam had adopted a wide range of economic policies and measures to stimulate growth while promoting social security, equity and sustainable development. As a result, inflation in Viet Nam had been kept under control, and

exports and industrial output had both risen. More than 300,000 jobs had been created and the number of foreign visitors to the country had sharply increased.

60. Nevertheless, Viet Nam was still faced with many challenges, ranging from enhancing its capacity to sustain economic growth and development, improving the efficiency of the economy and narrowing development gaps, to ensuring a clean environment for development and mitigating and adapting to climate change. As it sought to surmount those challenges, Viet Nam highly appreciated the cooperation and assistance offered by all members of the international community.

61. **Ms. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) said that the dynamics governing the international economy were changing. Most policy challenges had taken on an increasingly global dimension, owing to the food, energy and financial crises as well as the impact of climate change. Since no nation could effectively tackle those global challenges alone, further coordination and strengthening of international cooperation were needed. As developing countries struggled to achieve the MDGs in that context, it was all the more essential for international development partners to fulfil their promises, notably the commitment to increase ODA to 0.7 per cent of their GDP by 2015.

62. It was regrettable that no consensus had yet been reached on the steadily escalating threat posed by climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should be the primary instrument for negotiating the global response to that challenge. It was therefore essential to further advance global negotiations in the period leading up to the sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention to be held in December 2010.

63. Climate protection was closely linked with other areas of development cooperation, and access to clean and renewable energy was key to environmentally, economically and socially sustainable development, as well as the achievement of the MDGs. While barriers and obstacles faced many countries seeking to meet the target date of 2015, the international community must make a commitment to a shared effort to attain the Goals and to improve the lives of people around the world.

64. **Mr. Bame** (Ethiopia) said that the MDG results achieved to date were mixed. While the past 10 years had demonstrated that the Goals were in fact achievable, progress had been uneven and, without additional efforts, several of the Goals were likely to be missed in many countries.

65. In sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia, poverty and hunger still remained stubbornly high, while at the current rate of decline, the target of reducing maternal mortality by 2015 would not be achieved. African Union Heads of State and Government, at their Fifteenth Summit held in Kampala in July 2010, had therefore committed to accelerate efforts to improve the health of Africa's women and children, particularly with a view to attaining Goals 4, 5 and 6 of the MDGs by 2015. There was a strong need for development partners to support the continent's endeavours.

66. Achieving the MDGs would require the scaling up of action on the part of both developing and developed countries. Goal 8, which was based on the principles enshrined in the Monterrey Consensus and reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration, was crucial to the financing of development in developing countries. Achieving the partnership for development under Goal 8 was key to achieving the other Goals.

67. However efforts to achieve sustainable growth could be thwarted by environmental degradation. For many poor countries, the damage of climate change was already a reality. The least developed countries were paying dearly for the wealth and well-being that had been created in the developed countries through carbon-intensive development. Given the seriousness of the problem, the Prime Ministers of Ethiopia and Norway, co-chairs of the High-level Advisory Group of the Secretary-General on Climate Change Financing, were seeking feasible options to mobilize the resources that Member States had agreed upon in Copenhagen in 2009.

68. For Ethiopia, the past decade could be described as one of the most encouraging in the country's history in terms of its economic performance and social progress. When the MDGs had been launched, the then five-year national development plan had made use of their targets and indicators. The same was true of the current plan. Ethiopia, which had achieved growth higher than 11 per cent for seven years in a row, had made remarkable progress in the provision of social services and in the expansion of infrastructure. As a result, there were encouraging signs of a decline in absolute poverty and impressive strides had been made in education, health provision, power development and road construction.

69. Those developments, however, were accompanied by problems of income distribution as well as high population growth. Enormous challenges therefore still needed to be addressed, including the impact of the

global economy and climate change. The recently launched five-year development plan sought to continue the same strong economic performance and social progress while prioritizing structural transformation in order to address Ethiopia's development challenges. The remaining five years were crucial. The outcome document that adopted at the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs must be swiftly translated into concrete actions to ensure that the international community did indeed keep the promises enshrined in the Goals.

70. **Mr. Weisleder** (Costa Rica) said that the main lesson learned from the MDG summit was that all countries faced very serious challenges and must be proactive and creative in seeking solutions to the problems. While developed countries should fulfil their commitments, especially the obligation to earmark 0.7 per cent of their GDP as ODA, poor and middle-income countries should improve their governance by adopting best practices adapted to their national context and by encouraging transparency in all administrative processes. North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation must also be promoted. Furthermore, the United Nations should encourage information exchange, as the basis of international cooperation, which should take place within the framework of the Monterrey Consensus and aim at dynamic, equitable and sustainable social and economic development.

71. In the area of climate change, the time had come for multilateral action guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The polluting countries must accept the transformations required in order to reach viable agreements at the forthcoming important meetings and conferences to be held in Nagoya and Cancún.

72. **Mr. Gutiérrez** (Peru) said that the MDG summit had shown that, although some advances had been achieved, greater resolve and more work and solidarity were necessary to ensure progress beneficial to all peoples. Improved global governance was therefore necessary and the United Nations must play a central role, as the body capable of ensuring a global consensus on the matters addressed by agreements, such as those reached by the Group of Eight (G-8) or the Group of Twenty (G-20). The MDG implementation assessment had shown that it was the developing world that held the human and material resources necessary for the entire world to overcome current global problems. In

fact, by adopting healthy and responsible policies, many developing countries, including Peru, had continued to grow in the face of the current crisis and to meet the economic and social needs of their populations. Middle-income countries, such as Peru, had actually contributed to overcoming the crisis and their needs should be met in order to help them consolidate the progress achieved.

73. Countries with exceptional natural diversity, such as Peru, were often also characterized by great cultural wealth, a key human development component. The MDG summit had revealed the importance of an increased focus of international cooperation on culture in striving to attain the development targets set by the international community. The Second Committee should include the relationship between culture and development in its present work, alongside the issue of an equitable redistribution of the benefits of economic growth and the challenges and opportunities of international migration. In that connection, the important contribution of migrants to the host countries should be recognized.

74. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco) said that while the international community had recently had the opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to the MDGs, the goals relating to financing for development and the establishment of a multilateral trading system conducive to development had not been addressed. The ongoing crisis and the impact of climate change would probably have long-term implications for economic growth. The United Nations must play a central role in seeking solutions to those global development problems.

75. The MDG summit outcome document (A/65/L.1) had underscored that, while developing country ownership of development strategies was important, the contribution of the international community was crucial, as a significant number of developing countries were not on track to meet the MDGs. It was therefore necessary to boost international efforts for the attainment of the global partnership for development set out in MDG 8. In the period leading up to 2015, commitments relating to ODA, debt relief, the opening of international markets, technology transfer and capacity-building in developing countries should be strengthened. Innovative forms of financing could well complement traditional funding sources.

76. Climate change imposed considerable constraints on developing countries. The conference to be held in Cancún later in 2010 would offer the international community an opportunity to conclude an appropriate agreement in that area, on the basis of the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities. The new agreement should provide for technology transfer as a matter of priority.

77. The commitments that development partners had made to supporting Africa's development had not been fully honoured. In particular, the decision taken at the G-8 Summit in Gleneagles to double assistance to Africa should be implemented as a short-term objective, namely by 2015. Morocco also proposed the organization of a high-level meeting on investment in Africa within the framework of the General Assembly.

78. In view of the multiple current crises, the least developed countries were in need of ODA, FDI and technology transfer. Morocco therefore looked forward to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, scheduled to take place in Turkey in 2011. Small island developing States also deserved a large-scale mobilization of international community resources.

79. It was regrettable that, according to the *MDG Gap Task Force Report 2010*, the prospect of concluding a development-oriented Doha Round in the near future seemed highly uncertain. Making trade an engine for growth required facilitating the exports of developing countries and building their productive capacities. WTO members, and especially development partners, should therefore overcome their differences and facilitate the integration of developing countries into multilateral international trade.

80. Lastly, he stressed that South-South cooperation was a significant complement to North-South cooperation. Regional cooperation and integration had also become essential to the consolidation of economic development in various parts of the world.

81. **Ms. Ogwu** (Nigeria) said that the current global financial and economic crisis had compounded the severe effects of climate change to reverse the modest economic progress achieved by developing countries to date. Despite the resolve shown by the United Nations and other multilateral mechanisms, such as the G-8 and G-20, in seeking sustainable solutions, the optimism generated by initial signs of recovery had evaporated in the face of growing apprehension over the

consequences of economic difficulties, particularly those encountered in the world's major financial capitals. The increased deficits and national debts of donors threatened to confound expectations about the delivery of ODA to developing countries, thereby undermining progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

82. Access to credit remained restricted and FDI had failed to rise. There was a need for stable and predictable foreign exchange regimes and adequate reserves. The existing infrastructure had failed to support domestic production and distribution and, as a result, external debts remained unsustainable, while the lack of adequate international trade rules hampered development efforts. It was therefore necessary to seek not only economic recovery, but also systemic reforms and a new international economic order based on justice, equity, transparency and accountability, and free from protectionism, arbitrariness and distortion.

83. Determined to steer through the economic crisis, Nigeria had endeavoured to reform vital sectors of its economy with a view to ensuring resilience to shocks and future challenges. In addition to supporting the Central Bank of Nigeria and other regulatory agencies in the interest of economic stability and development, the Government had engaged in innovative national activities and had sought to boost the domestic resource base through greater interaction with neighbours and cooperation within the international community. The response of the United Nations leadership to the global economic challenge had raised hopes for a more purposeful, inclusive and enduring approach. Accordingly, Nigeria remained committed to a methodical implementation of the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and, satisfied with the work of the related ad hoc open-ended working group of the General Assembly, supported the call for a follow-up conference on the same topic in 2012.

84. The MDG summit had clearly underscored the urgency of actions needed to redress the current situation. The Goals had been the first major casualty of the crisis, especially in developing countries. As the region most affected, sub-Saharan Africa was lagging behind in almost all of the indicators, although Africa remained a land of opportunity. Strengthened by the political declaration on Africa's development needs (A/63/L.1), the New Partnership for Africa's

Development (NEPAD) had helped to complement bilateral arrangements towards effectively deploying resources on the continent. South-South cooperation was also a reliable component of development cooperation. Furthermore, the opportunity provided by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2012, should be fully used to consolidate political commitments, assess progress and address new challenges in the area of sustainable development.

85. Nigeria hoped that a globally acceptable agreement would be reached at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Self-centredness must not stand in the way of the international community's commitment to justice, safety and care for the future generations.

86. **Mr. Daka** (Zambia) said that while the interrelated global economic, food, energy and climate crises had added to the challenges currently facing the world, they had also brought into focus the resolve of the international community to assist developing countries, especially the least developed ones, to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the MDGs. The outcome document adopted at the recent MDG summit fell short of the new and additional resources required. The global financial and economic crisis had reversed many important development gains, especially in developing countries. Consequently, concerted efforts needed to be put in place to resolve the world economy's systemic problems, if the crisis was to be prevented from recurring.

87. In Zambia, the slowdown experienced in the key economic sectors of mining, tourism, construction, transport and communication had negatively affected Government revenues and hence expenditures, especially in such critical social sectors as health, education and water and sanitation. The foregoing, combined with the slow disbursement of ODA from development partners, had affected the country's ability to achieve the MDGs. Zambia therefore welcomed the call for the speedy establishment of a monitoring mechanism to follow up on all commitments related to the development of Africa, as contained in the United Nations political declaration on Africa's development needs.

88. Zambia was both a least developed country and a landlocked developing country. That double vulnerability required immediate mitigation measures in line with both the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and with the Almaty Programme of Action. Zambia therefore called upon the international community to implement those programmes.

89. Agriculture would for a long time remain the country's major option for diversification of the economy. While agricultural production was a viable strategy for real and meaningful poverty reduction, agriculture was evidently vulnerable both to climate change and to fluctuations in international trade. This delegation would therefore take a keen interest in the Committee's discussions on agricultural development and food security.

90. Zambia appreciated the leadership that the United Nations was providing on the global issue of climate change. The forthcoming sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should mark a turning point in the international community's efforts to deliver on unfulfilled promises. Accordingly, the outcome of the Conference should take the form of a legally binding successor to the Kyoto Protocol.

91. Lastly, he said that the theme chosen for the sixty-fifth session, "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance", was opportune. The United Nations development system needed to be strengthened, and its effectiveness enhanced, in order to better respond to the needs of developing countries as they sought to achieve their development goals.

92. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that the MDG summit had shown that the current global economic difficulties demanded solidarity and inclusive solutions, and that all countries were willing to contribute their due share. Increased cooperation would allow ample use to be made of the developing world as a vital economic space with the human and material potential to meet humanity's needs in coming decades. Efforts for economic recovery and collective prosperity should be guided by the recognition of global interdependence.

93. In the Committee, biodiversity, climate change and macroeconomic policy issues presented the triple challenge of avoiding redundancy, ensuring consistency and creating added value in the context of multilateral environmental agreements, the Bretton

Woods institutions and the WTO. The processes of implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kyoto Protocol and completing the Doha Round had been slow. However, Committee members could help create a constructive international spirit for development by, inter alia: promoting informal intergovernmental dialogue and better coordination at the political and technical levels; assigning specific mandates to organizations within the United Nations system; giving more priority to discussions on operational activities for development, including South-South and triangular cooperation; focusing on the Millennium Agenda and poverty eradication as cross-cutting issues within the Committee's programme of work; launching cooperation initiatives and partnerships; and complementing cooperation efforts on urgent matters, such as the reconstruction of Haiti.

94. Colombia's recent progress towards consolidating security, democracy, prosperity and sustainable development gave grounds for optimism. As a highly diverse country with extensive forests and water resources, a stable food supply, biofuels and other renewable energies, Colombia could share its experience and contribute to the solution of global problems. However, that would require an international environment which favoured trade, investment, employment, science, technology and innovation, and one which was conducive to the sustainable use of natural wealth, including through the adoption of a protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

95. **Mr. Barry** (Senegal) said that, in the light of the MDG summit, the international community had a historical responsibility to strengthen and deepen its cooperation in order to attain the Goals that had been set. However, development and poverty reduction efforts could not be successful if the international community did not take the bold measures required, including at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan; the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancún, Mexico; the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul, Turkey; and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio, Brazil.

96. Developing countries would be unable to make progress unless the outstanding commitments of development partners were respected, particularly those with respect to debt relief; equitable, free and fair international trade; increased ODA delivered through improved mechanisms; and access for the poor to sustainable energy sources, modern technologies and innovative financing. The Commission must play an important role in those areas.

97. In its efforts to achieve sustainable development, Senegal had focused on investments in human resources and major infrastructure projects; in the modernization of agriculture; and in the social sector, particularly health care and education, which were crucial to the development of high-quality human resources.

98. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that the global financial meltdown, coupled with food and fuel insecurity and climate change, called for unity to face those challenges. Development partners should therefore implement their commitments in the areas of external debt, ODA, financing for development, trade and technology transfer. Additional resources should be mobilized to address the challenges faced by developing countries in achieving the MDGs by 2015. The MDG summit outcome document required immediate implementation and regular follow up. It was also imperative to earmark 2 per cent of GNI as ODA for the least developed countries.

99. Bangladesh appreciated the role 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 on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development. The crisis had shown the need for a new global financial and economic architecture as well as a group with a wider mandate. In that context, new mechanisms were required to manage trade, money and financial intermediation; the Breton Woods institutions and the WTO should be re-examined and the classification of States into high-, middle- and low-income and least developed countries should be reconsidered to reflect current realities.

100. In the run-up to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it was important to stress that the international community, particularly the developed countries, must address the

challenge of climate change by means of the Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. It was also urgent to set up an international climate change fund, as agreed at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties in 2009. That was the least that should be expected of the major emitters of the greenhouse gases responsible for climate change. Moreover, fund contributions should be separate from ODA commitments and a legally binding agreement on emissions reductions should be swiftly concluded.

101. At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, emphasis should be given to the adoption of the protocol on access and benefit-sharing, with sufficient provision of financial resources and technology transfer for developing countries. With regard to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Bangladesh looked forward to the adoption of an internationally binding law on carbon emissions.

102. Lastly, Bangladesh urged development partners to show greater flexibility and the political will needed for an early conclusion of the Doha Round, with quota- and duty-free access for all least developing country products and free movement of labour under mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services.

103. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the current global crisis of capitalism was creating poverty, hunger and inequality while also increasingly destroying ecosystems. The capital accumulation process set in motion by the hegemony of financial capital failed to generate goods and services, employment or income for populations and kept the real economy in check, with disruptive effects on democratic life, unions, social and popular movements and ecosystems. As the capitalist model that had emerged after the Second World War was being destroyed by neoliberal globalization, unbridled profiteering was leading to dismissals, unemployment and declining wages and social benefits. Individualist excesses and contempt for the poor, immigrants and minorities were supplanting solidarity and fraternity. The proponents of market totalitarianism, namely Wall Street and the Bretton Woods institutions, promoted measures dismantling gains achieved in the framework of the welfare state; imposed on developing countries conditions running counter to the limited solidarity-based social policies in place; and undermined international cooperation.

104. It was necessary to rebuild the United Nations as a global body of proven legitimacy to control global financial speculators. The ad hoc open-ended working group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis must continue its work and, in that connection, a follow-up international conference must be held in 2012. Moreover, extensive transformation and democratization of the international financial and monetary institutions was required in order to strengthen the voice and representation of developing countries at all levels of management and decision-making. The General Assembly should establish a system for controlling the Bretton Woods institutions, and a financial transactions tax should be imposed to finance the attainment of the MDGs and enable developing countries to adapt to climate change. Regional and subregional financial institutions should be set up and empowered to issue solidarity-based financing for development, while new regional and subregional currencies should be created to ensure independence from the dollar.

105. Drought, desertification and the loss of fertility and biodiversity threatened agricultural production and increased poverty and hunger. Solutions to those problems should be sought within the legal and conceptual framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. At the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancún, a fair and ambitious agreement should be concluded, reflecting the historical responsibilities of developed countries, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and the need to ensure the transfer of financial resources, technology and skills from developed countries to help the countries of the South adapt to the effects of climate change.

106. Lastly, he stressed that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was aware of its responsibilities under the Convention on Biological Diversity; had been a major player in South-South cooperation; promoted fair trade and solidarity-based partnerships with Africa and the Arab Countries; supported the consolidation of the Union of South American Nations and the creation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States; and contributed to the creation of a multipolar world based on the legal equality of sovereign States.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.