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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 3rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 5 October 2010, at 10 a.m.

*Chairperson:* Mr. Lundberg (Vice-Chairperson) . . . . . (Finland)

*later:* Ms. Ochir (Chairperson) . . . . . (Mongolia)

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General debate (*continued*)

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*In the absence of Ms. Ochir (Mongolia), Mr. Lundberg (Finland), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

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

#### **General debate (continued)**

1. **Mr. Savostianov** (Russian Federation) said that global development challenges, shocks to financial and commodity markets, climate change and associated natural disasters had transformed the world economic landscape, requiring a fresh look at economic and financial models, prompting evolution of social institutions and driving technological development in certain sectors. Liberalism had been replaced by protectionism. For the first time in years, discussion had begun on structural reforms in both developing and developed countries. Some years previously, it would have been unimaginable that advanced economies would face the threat of a sovereign debt crisis and uncontrolled budget deficits, yet those threats had become realities, calling for flexibility and adaptability. The crises had not shaken the international community's resolve to reach the internationally agreed development goals, largely thanks to the United Nations, a unique mechanism for harmonizing interests and coordinating development decisions.

2. At the recent High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), world leaders had reaffirmed their commitment to timely achievement of the MDGs and to principles of global partnership and shared responsibility for development. Implementing the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting was a priority and the Committee had a key role to play in that regard. Its decisions should have a long-term perspective and lay the foundations for international cooperation beyond 2015.

3. The Committee should adhere to its most effective methods and engage in a dialogue focusing on practical results. Its decisions should stem from serious analysis rather than from political rhetoric. The Committee's general debate should be preserved as it permitted examination of the complex processes of the world economy, helping reach important overall political conclusions, the basis for building a programme of practical actions. Decisions on the macroeconomic cluster should be taken by consensus

and should be balanced, feasible and economically justified. Imposition of specific initiatives would not advance the Monterrey process.

4. Development goals were also intrinsically linked to combating climate change, and responses to climate change should not undermine long-term economic growth, a goal particularly relevant to developing countries. It was extremely important that the Committee help the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Cancún, to elaborate specific modalities of the international climate regime beyond 2012. Consensus was needed, since a post-Kyoto agreement would be meaningless without support from any of the major emitters. The strategy towards the earlier declared goals did not exclude real measures on separate key areas of climate change, especially regarding adaptation and financing. The Russian Federation would actively work for international arrangements on climate cooperation beyond 2012 following the Bali Action Plan and the Copenhagen Accord. He hoped that international efforts would become more active in the light of his country's decision to reduce by 15 to 25 per cent its emission of greenhouse gases by 2020, and that international partners would follow suit.

5. The Committee was an important platform to develop strategy in a full-scale transition to new environmentally sound technologies, a crucial issue for the Russian Federation in its pursuit of comprehensive economic modernization. The potential of the Committee and the specialized agencies should be fully explored to support initiatives to develop an advanced waste treatment industry. The trend towards use of waste as an additional resource was a direct result of United Nations efforts to implement sustainable development.

6. The economy of the Russian Federation had recovered from the recession relatively quickly and without serious capital loss, mainly thanks to a large-scale programme of anti-crisis measures. The Government had resorted to a reserve fund and to a budget deficit while also supporting private incomes, the growth of pensions, allowances and indexed wages in the budget sector. Growth of gross domestic product (GDP) was over 4 per cent, industrial production 9.6 per cent and real income over 5 per cent. Unemployment had dropped to 7 per cent. During 2010 over 1 million new jobs had been created.

7. Balanced and positively conservative macroeconomic policy was crucial to preserving the Government's credibility. The Russian Federation's budget deficit in 2009 had been almost 6 per cent and was expected to decline to 5.3 per cent in 2010. The outlines of the 2011 budget had been recently endorsed, with an estimated deficit of 3.6 per cent. The Russian Federation expected in the foreseeable future to restore a balanced budget with zero deficit. Lower inflation as a stable trend should also contribute to macroeconomic stability.

8. As a major anti-crisis measure, the Government had approved a special programme to promote competition, aimed at eliminating all factors leading to unjustified price increases and facilitating free competition at all levels. Most importantly, despite all the difficulties of the global crisis, a consistent policy of economic modernization and innovation was being followed to ensure high living standards not only through exploitation of natural resources but also through intellectual resources. The Russian Federation's comprehensive modernization and diversification had an extensive foreign policy dimension, implying the maximum use of external sources of modernization, with a view to developing the science-intensive sectors of the economy and creating the legal conditions for promoting innovation-based growth.

9. **Mr. Mwanyula** (Malawi), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that Africa had enormous potential in many respects but progress towards reducing poverty had been slowed by the financial, economic, energy and food crises. Africa was grateful for the support received from development partners, which could bridge development gaps and ensure growth, but noted that it had been incoherent and uneven, failing to yield maximum results. Challenges such as food insecurity, energy insufficiency and climate-induced problems were not only confined to the achievement of the MDGs, but also encompassed questions of peace and security, good governance, improved livelihoods and equal opportunities for all Africans. Low agricultural productivity and inefficient energy production resulted from a lack of capacity and technology, while climate change continued to frustrate development efforts. The international community should therefore urgently support short-, medium- and long-term African needs in agricultural production and address demand-side

concerns. African countries were committed to intensifying their support towards national agricultural production and market development.

10. While trade was an important driver of Africa's economy, its share in global trade was the lowest of all continents. A balanced, equitable and open multilateral trading system was needed, especially in light of volatile energy and food prices and of current and foreseeable challenges to the world economy. It was important to overcome the remaining obstacles to a World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement, especially with regard to a special safeguard mechanism for agriculture. The failure of WTO negotiations, especially on several important issues adversely affecting Africa, was deeply disappointing. Negotiating partners in the Doha Development Round should show restraint and flexibility to avert the emerging trend towards protectionism.

11. Africa's experience of development assistance pointed to the need for stronger national ownership, expanded use of national capacity, increased use of budget support and some limited predictability in aid flow. While Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) statistics suggested that aid to Africa had risen to about 41 per cent of total aid, most of that was due to debt relief. Donors were falling behind in their ODA commitments and should fulfil their pledges. There was a need to seek common understanding between developed and developing countries. The official development assistance (ODA) target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP), established since 1970, was necessary in order to achieve a 5 to 7 per cent growth rate in developing countries. In 1991 the developed countries had achieved 0.33 per cent of GNP as ODA and that percentage had decreased almost every year until 2003, returning to 0.33 only in 2005. Most of the 2004 and 2005 increases had been for debt reduction and emergency relief. An increase in ODA up to 0.7 per cent could not be counted as support for mitigation and adaptation. Neither the market nor the private sector would work to deliver investment or technology on appropriate terms for mitigation or adaptation. Developed economies should correct failures in the market and introduce incentives for private investors. National policies by developing countries would not suffice. The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures

(TRIMs Agreement) had raised the price of technology and prevented developing countries from imposing performance requirements, including those for energy efficiency or carbon emissions. Developing countries alone could not impose the required policy changes.

12. The tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity would be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010. Africa believed that preserving agricultural biodiversity and plant genetic resources required greater impetus under the Convention's 2011-2020 strategic plan, which was expected to be adopted on that occasion. The adoption of a protocol on access and benefit-sharing would give greater legal certainty and clarity to users and providers of genetic resources. Providing an incentive to public and private sector research would ensure that a fair and equitable share of benefits from such research accrued to the regions providing genetic resources, particularly Africa.

13. **Mr. Oussein** (Comoros) said that the current session was being held in a difficult international context, marked again by a convergence of economic, financial, food and energy crises that had been aggravated by climate change, for which the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen had unfortunately been unable to produce satisfactory responses. Those major challenges were a wake-up call to the international community and demanded that that Committee take the lead as a concrete, dynamic, initiative-taking force, so that the United Nations could completely fulfil its role in global governance.

14. The recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs had shown that Africa had made remarkable progress on the whole in reaching some of the goals, such as school enrolment at the primary level, parity between girls and boys in primary school, the political empowerment of women, and reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS. It was important, however, to recognize that the worldwide economic crisis had destroyed all the efforts undertaken and would not allow the majority of countries to reach the Goals by 2015.

15. In taking stock of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, there was cause for concern about the negative impact of those crises on national economies. According to the World Bank, price increases in foodstuffs could continue to push 100 million additional people, 10 per cent of whom

were children, into poverty. According to some estimates, those prices could remain as high as they were currently into 2015. The Comoros had been striving to confront those crises, particularly the food security crisis, which had resulted in an increase of nearly 6 per cent in essential commodities.

16. Against that background, his Government had taken steps to sustain the population and stabilize runaway inflation, such as establishing an inter-ministerial follow-up committee with a specific mission; finalizing the national poverty reduction strategy paper, which integrated the MDGs; and highlighting food security and the revitalization of economic growth. New public finance-related guidelines had also been identified for the period 2008-2011, and a public-finance reform strategy covering the period 2010-2015 had been adopted by the Government which involved, inter alia, implementing a stringent budgetary and fiscal policy and carrying out reforms of fiscal and customs policies based on simplification, harmonization and transparency. Similarly, emphasis was placed on reorganizing public structures supporting agricultural development and improving the economic environment for agricultural production through appropriate management measures.

17. However, the efforts undertaken at the national level were clearly insufficient by themselves. The international community must therefore redouble its efforts through an increase in aid to the agricultural sector. It must enable development of production, basic infrastructure and human resources. It should also improve market access for African manufactured and agricultural products by eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers that hampered trade.

18. Although the financial crisis had revealed the failure of the Bretton Woods institutions, it could be seen as an opportunity to reform the international financial system completely by establishing equitable, transparent rules that closely associated developing countries in decision-making. It was urgent that all promises made regarding aid to Africa at the Group of Eight (G-8) and Group of Twenty (G-20) Summits be kept, in particular the commitment made by developed countries to allocate 0.7 per cent of their GDP as ODA by 2015 and the establishment of a mechanism aimed at ensuring the timely, complete implementation of all commitments regarding development in Africa.

19. Climate change was not a figment of the imagination or a political issue; it was an acknowledged scientific reality whose devastating, deadly consequences were currently being experienced by millions of vulnerable people who were climate-change refugees, victims of man's recklessness. All scenarios projected an aggravation of the situation in coming decades. Projections indicated that by 2020, crop yields could be reduced by more than 50 per cent. According to the World Bank, the increase in temperature by the end of the century could put between 100 and 400 million people at risk of hunger, while 1 to 2 billion people could be deprived of sufficient water to meet their needs. Small island States, including Comoros, could disappear from the planet entirely within the next 50 years if nothing was done. It was therefore necessary to act, and quickly. As everyone knew, developed countries and some emerging countries bore a heavy responsibility for the current situation; consequently, they must not only address their own ways of producing and consuming, but also provide support for developing countries, particularly in the area of national adaptation programmes, taking a particular interest in small island developing States by taking steps to allow the products of those countries to benefit from special and differentiated treatment.

20. The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should result in the signing of a legally binding agreement that took into account the interests of the most vulnerable, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. During the Conference negotiations in Cancún, everyone must be mindful that, behind the numbers and words, the lives of millions of people were at stake.

21. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the financial crisis had brought about a welcome change in economic policy discourse that critically questioned many ideas and principles long considered sacred to mainstream politics, such as blind faith in self-regulatory markets. However, that positive shift had yet to be reflected in the practical macroeconomic sphere, nationally and internationally. Major financial players were returning to business as usual as if there had never been a crisis, perhaps trusting that if things went wrong they would again be bailed out. They cared little about the millions of people pushed back into poverty and hunger by their misconduct. Little had

been done to correct the systemic imbalances and over-financialization of economic activities, the main sources of the crisis. Ensuring safety for all financial products, applying stricter standards to hedge funds and bringing the rating agencies under international ownership and control should be rigorously pursued.

22. It had become obvious that the market could not adjust to externalities in addressing development, distribution of growth dividends and social goals. In countries with a high rate of inequality, growth did not alleviate poverty but aggravated it. Thus, inclusive development could not be left to market forces. A second Bretton Woods Conference, called for by many, seemed a necessary way to address the new realities and to make structural reforms in the current system's imbalances. Current reforms of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank were more cosmetic than real. Meaningful reform called for introducing a double-majority voting procedure, ensuring the accountability of IMF to its instructions, abandoning pro-cyclical conditionalities and ending the application of non-economic, non-technical considerations.

23. His delegation welcomed the progress report of the ad hoc open-ended working group 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 (A/64/884), and saw merit in extending the working group's mandate.

24. Governments were struggling to realize their development goals, including the MDGs, in an adverse external environment. The recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs had largely failed to tackle systemic shortcomings. While its outcome document was welcomed as a consensual text, developing countries' flexibility in negotiating that outcome had not been properly reciprocated, it lacked overall strength and a more action-oriented text was required with new additional commitments from all in order to achieve the MDGs on time. His delegation hoped that the positive momentum following the Plenary Meeting would be maintained until the 2015 deadline.

25. Climate change could potentially bring widespread poverty and instability to all countries. More than 10 years after the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol, there was scant cause for optimism. Every effort should be made to have the main building blocks of a solid, reliable and meaningful agreement at the

sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancún. Concerted and ambitious commitments and measures were needed by developed countries, based on the principles of the Convention, to address developing countries' needs under the Bali Action Plan, namely mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology. One major impact of climate change, dust and sand storms, was inflicting substantial socio-economic damage in the Islamic Republic of Iran and its region, impairing normal life and health, eroding farmlands and polluting water. In addition to firm determination by all countries affected, that problem required regional and global cooperation. To address the problem, his country had hosted a regional ministerial environmental session in Tehran on 29 September 2010, where the parties involved had agreed to cooperate to bring dust and sandstorms under control over the following five years. Post-Kyoto arrangements should look closely at the problem to identify its root causes and eradicate it.

26. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 would be a unique opportunity to address the failures in implementing the Rio and Johannesburg outcomes and to consider changes since 1992. The preparatory process should focus on the three pillars of sustainable development, giving equal weight to each. Eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base were comprehensive objectives and essential requirements for sustainable development. The United Nations system should focus on technology transfer, including at the highest level, and should implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building. There was no need to redefine sustainable development. A green economy was no substitute for sustainable development.

27. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, despite some signs of economic recovery, developing countries were still suffering from the consequences of the global economic crisis and that international partnership was necessary to overcome persistent challenges to the achievement of the MDGs. In that regard, it was crucial to extend the mandate of the ad hoc open-ended working group 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.

28. Cooperation between the developed and developing countries was also crucial in order to confront the historic challenge presented by climate change. The sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change needed to stress common but differentiated responsibilities with a view to overcoming the differences that had emerged at the fifteenth session in Copenhagen.

29. The drain on Syrian agricultural, human and water resources by the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan continued to pose both an obstacle to Syrian development and a threat to the environment. The Committee should highlight the adverse economic and environmental impacts of foreign occupation, which had been acknowledged repeatedly in United Nations reports and resolutions.

30. Economic development was also hindered by the obstacles placed in the way of developing countries applying for WTO membership. He called on the Committee to reaffirm the importance of keeping the WTO application process free of politicization and implementing General Assembly resolution 64/188 on international trade and development, which called for facilitating the accession of all developing countries that applied for membership in WTO. Unilateral economic measures imposed on some of the developing countries by certain developed countries also impeded development and undermined the international trading system, and in that regard his delegation called for compliance with General Assembly resolution 64/189 on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries.

31. **Mr. Wang Min** (China) said that the impact of the multiple global crises, compounded by climate change, had severely challenged the ability of developing countries to achieve the MDGs by 2015. The serious gap in development between the North and South was the root cause of the world economic imbalance and other global challenges. Only when developing countries were fully developed could there be a solid basis for, and enduring growth of, the global economy. Top priority must therefore be given to development, building on the political consensus reached during the recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, ensuring that the achievement of those Goals was at the top of its agenda, and, particularly

helping African countries and the least developed countries alleviate poverty.

32. China supported discussing the issue of development at the G-20 Summit to be held in Seoul, which should provide greater political impetus, more economic resources and better institutional guarantees towards that end. Development resources needed to be secured, and the global financial crisis must not be used as an excuse to reduce ODA. Furthermore, South-South cooperation was not a substitute for North-South cooperation, and developed countries should implement the Monterrey Consensus in good faith and fulfil their pledges to earmark 0.7 per cent of GDP for ODA. They should provide steady, long-term and predictable financial assistance and further open up their markets to developing countries, reduce and forgive their debts and increase technical support. Moreover, the resources of international financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF should first and foremost be used to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries.

33. The United Nations should play a guiding and coordinating role in the area of international development, strengthen working mechanisms on MDGs, enhance coordination and evaluation of the progress made in implementing them, and monitor the implementation of international development assistance. The international community needed to expedite reform of the international financial institutions, increase the representation of emerging economies and developing countries therein and create a fair, just, inclusive and orderly international financial system. It should also push for comprehensive and balanced results from the Doha Round.

34. The international community must invest more in agriculture, increase food output, ensure food supply and maintain an overall balance in food supply and demand. It should also stabilize energy prices, prevent excessive speculation and meet the energy demand of all countries, developing ones in particular. On climate change, it should adhere to the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, and uphold the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol as the main channels for relevant negotiations.

35. Development modalities must be improved by, inter alia: making use of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in

2012; focusing on changing unsustainable modes of production, living and consumption; exploring development paths that were suitable to national conditions; and improving the incentives and capacity for the sustainable development of developing countries.

36. China had actively participated in international cooperation to address the financial crisis, despite the difficulties and challenges that it faced. In so doing, China had fulfilled its commitments and had implemented measures to assist other countries, including developing countries and least developed countries, particularly in Africa. At the High-level Meeting on the MDGs, the Chinese Government had announced new measures and initiatives to help developing countries improve their livelihoods, reduce their debt burden and strengthen cooperation in the areas of finance, trade, agriculture and human resources training. While China still faced many challenges in overcoming its economic and development issues, with more than 150 million people still living below the poverty line nationwide, it would continue to work towards the common development and prosperity of humankind, including the achievement of the MDGs.

37. **Mr. Kedar** (Israel) said that it was encouraging that some of the MDGs remained on track. However, difficulties remained in many areas of the world, with progress being slowest on Goals 3, 4 and 5 of the MDGs. Solutions in those areas were already within reach; what was needed was action, for the sake of future generations. The Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health was a new opportunity to work collectively to make the greatest strides in development the world had yet seen.

38. In its six decades of existence, Israel had faced great difficulties in meeting its development goals due, inter alia, to climate conditions, a lack of natural resources and a hostile neighbourhood. Nevertheless, Israel had transformed itself into an industrialized country and had recently acceded to OECD. It thus considered that nationally owned development strategies, policies and programmes were important.

39. One such example was Israel's centre for international development cooperation, MASHAV, which, in the last decade, had aligned its activities with the MDGs, stressing the importance of harmonization and multilateral collaboration. MASHAV collaborated

with development partners, with a particular emphasis on Africa and the Middle East, refocusing its programmes from supply- to demand-driven approaches. Its areas of cooperation included climate change adaptation and mitigation, food security, public health, water and sanitation, education, gender as a cross-cutting issue and economic development. Only through such sustainable and comprehensive development programmes could significant results be achieved.

40. Israel was committed to sharing its experience and expertise in combating desertification and promoting dryland development with other countries facing similar challenges. For example, MASHAV would be conducting seminars in November 2010 on the role of forestation in combating desertification, coinciding with the Third International Conference on Drylands, Deserts and Desertification, and the launch of the International Year of Forests in 2011. Furthermore, in line with the call of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly to promote complementarities, Israel would be holding a symposium on synergies in the implementation of the Rio Conventions during that Conference.

41. In implementing General Assembly resolution 64/197 on agricultural technology for development, which called on Member States to cooperate to develop and implement sustainable agricultural technologies as a means to combat poverty and hunger and ensure better production and safer land use, Israel had been working to further develop its partnerships in order to ensure that agricultural technologies reached areas where they could have the greatest development impact. As such, Israel was conducting projects that focused on training women in sub-Saharan Africa in agricultural entrepreneurship.

42. The elimination of gender disparity must be integral to any strategy for meaningful and sustainable development. He noted that one of the world's first training centres dedicated specifically to the empowerment of women, the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center, would be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 2011. In conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, that institution would be hosting the 2011 biennial Conference on Women's Leadership, which would highlight the connection between development and scientific and technical training among girls of secondary school age.

Israel, which had long been active in the field of women's rights and development, hoped that the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) would greatly contribute to more focused and effective gender-centric development strategies and programmes.

43. *Ms. Ochir (Mongolia), Chairperson, took the Chair.*

44. **Ms. Sahussarungsi** (Thailand) said that the world had seen many changes and was increasingly interconnected. Countries continued to grapple with interrelated challenges such as poverty, unemployment, economic fragility, environmental degradation and ageing societies, while struggling with the dilemma of growth versus sustainability. In that context, she reaffirmed the four precepts set out by Thailand's Foreign Minister at the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs: good governance was critical to the establishment of an effective administration in order to ensure that people benefited from development strategies; the development agenda must be people-centred; international cooperation must be enhanced to ensure that developing countries could achieve the MDGs and the other internationally agreed development goals in a timely manner; and the sustainability of development progress must be ensured.

45. As little concrete action had emerged from the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, the forthcoming session in Cancún must be a stepping stone to a fair and legally binding post-2012 agreement. The sixteenth session must give rise to ambitious but realistic deliverables. In that respect, developed countries needed to affirm their commitment to deep emissions reductions and the provision of fast-start financing as well as technology development and transfer, while recognizing developing countries' contributions in their voluntary and self-financed mitigation efforts domestically. Thailand supported the ongoing work under the Framework Convention and would do its utmost to work closely with other nations to overcome the challenges ahead.

46. The international community had fallen far short of meeting the 2010 target for slowing the loss of biodiversity, as the third edition of the Global



Biodiversity Outlook had illustrated. Her Government therefore hoped that the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, would adopt a revised and updated strategic plan for the Convention, including through new targets for the post-2010 period, so as to ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity.

47. The global macroeconomic structure required reform, particularly of financial regulation and supervision, in order to achieve global financial stability. Greater participation by developing countries was needed, both in terms of voting rights and in the management of the international financial institutions. In that respect, her Government supported the concerted efforts of the United Nations to tackle the global financial crisis and encouraged the creation of a coordination mechanism between the United Nations and the G-20 to bridge gaps in international cooperation.

48. Her Government welcomed the High-level Consultation on the G-20 Seoul Summit planned by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), to be held in October 2010 in Bangkok, which would facilitate consultation among G-20 and non-G-20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The G-20 should consider development as a priority issue in order to ensure global cooperation for the achievement of the MDGs, including the other internationally agreed development goals, within their respective time frames. All countries must show the necessary political commitment to push for the earliest conclusion of the Doha Round and ensure trade liberalization in both developed and developing markets as well as in agricultural and industrial products.

49. Thailand, which had long been engaged in South-South and triangular cooperation, stood ready to exchange its knowledge and experience in alleviating poverty with other developing countries, especially least developed countries. Thailand greatly valued the global partnership for development, to which it had already allocated more than \$170 million, most of which focused on development cooperation with least developed countries.

50. Lastly, she stressed that solutions to complex global challenges could not be reached through

individual efforts based on a narrow self-interest. The time had come for cooperation which took into account not only immediate political costs, but also the broad long-term impact of collective decisions.

51. **Mr. Gerus** (Belarus) said that attainment of the MDGs in an era of globalization was contingent, first of all, upon the willingness of all States, large and small, to work together on an equal footing to address common challenges and, second, upon developed countries providing sufficient resources to developing countries for their development. He regretted that those essential conditions had not yet been fulfilled and, recalling the optimism that had prevailed at the time of the adoption of the Goals, called on the United Nations to reaffirm its status as the world's primary forum for international economic cooperation.

52. The recent global financial and economic crisis had demonstrated that, in ensuring the sustainable economic growth and well-being of its population, the strong social orientation of a country was just as important as its democratic principles, free market environment and favourable conditions for international trade and international cooperation. Drawing attention, in that context, to the recently published second national report of Belarus on attainment of the MDGs, he noted that the strength of the Belarusian economy could be seen in the impressive performance over the last decade of its GNP, which had grown almost threefold in terms of the purchasing power of the population. While there had been certain negative trends in the Belarusian economy over the previous five years, the country had remained one of the few to register a positive growth of its GNP.

53. Belarus had attained Goals 1 to 3 of the MDGs by 2010 and hoped to have attained Goals 4 to 7 by 2015. Outlining significant gains made in Belarus in such areas as reducing infant and maternal mortality, the indicators of which were approaching those of developed countries, he also reviewed measures taken by Belarus to promote economic sustainability and steer it towards a genuinely green economy. To that end, he stressed the need for new and renewable energy sources to be made more accessible to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

54. Lastly, reiterating that attainment of the MDGs was impossible without boosting the economic potential and political standing of medium-income countries, he called upon the United Nations to take

concerted measures to assist such countries in tackling their specific social and economic problems.

55. **Mr. Sparber** (Liechtenstein) said that the United Nations had been strengthened by the international community's recently reaffirmed commitment to achieve all of the MDGs by 2015. Universality, sovereign equality and democracy were important elements of consensual agreements, providing the legitimacy needed for effective implementation. Hence, the Committee's work on advancing the United Nations development agenda should build on the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs (A/65/L.1), thereby enhancing the primary role of the United Nations in the system of global governance, lest other players take over that role.

56. Welcoming all initiatives that contributed to the development agenda, his delegation hoped that the new G-20 Working Group on Development would boost development efforts through 2015 and beyond. While it would not be a substitute for the United Nations development agenda, particularly that of the Second Committee, the G-20 could contribute to establishing a new development paradigm based on mutual accountability, transparency and cooperation on equal footing — principles that formed the basis for sustainable development policies between States and regions and were at the very heart of effective and efficient global governance.

57. Only targeted input allowed for targeted action. The informal Global Governance Group, of which Liechtenstein was a member, provided an excellent opportunity to integrate into its decisions those entities directly affected by them. In that regard, the Group could play a bridging function and infuse G-20 development policies into the wider United Nations development discourse. He hoped that such inputs, which would strengthen the role of the United Nations as the primary coordinating forum for global development policy, would be received constructively and without ideological prejudice.

58. In 2010, the Committee should focus on sustainability in development efforts, as well as incentives for new capital inflows to developing countries. Normative standards were therefore needed in the areas of good and transparent governance and the fight against corruption and money-laundering. Such efforts would help to broaden the domestic tax base of developing countries. Illicit capital outflows

from developing countries must be addressed on both the demand and supply side. Liechtenstein had long supported such efforts and fully implemented international standards governing money-laundering, transparency and information exchange on taxation. The Committee must play a central role in promoting those standards and work towards their universal implementation. The legitimacy of the Committee's work would be judged by the results that it delivered. Building on the current momentum, a constructive new partnership should be forged to strengthen the Committee's standing and, thereby, the United Nations development agenda.

59. **Mr Shalgham** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, following the recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly was a good opportunity to consider the challenges to sustainable development posed by the continuing impact of the global economic crisis. Many developing countries lacked the national resources required to achieve the MDGs by 2015. It was therefore imperative for developed countries to fulfil the assistance commitments that they had undertaken before the crisis, over and above debt relief.

60. While reform of the international financial institutions remained problematic, his delegation would continue to push for a greater voice for developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions. That outcome was essential if more effective international mechanisms were to be devised for emergency assistance, disaster relief and the prevention of future crises.

61. Climate change posed a special threat to the efforts of developing countries to combat poverty, disease and hunger. His country in particular suffered from drought and desertification problems that it could not confront with national resources alone. Bioengineered crops were not the answer to the food crisis. So-called "genetically improved" seeds marketed by multinational corporations were beyond the reach of many farmers in the developing world. In that regard, he hoped that 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 would both shoulder their responsibilities to future generations.

62. Delays in completing the Doha Round meant that existing protectionist barriers would remain in place against the free flow of commodity exports from developing to industrialized countries. His country had lifted quotas and customs restrictions on most commodities imported from the Arab and African countries with which it had bilateral trade agreements. Since free trade was an instrument of economic and social development, his delegation called for increased support for regional trade organizations and for greater South-South cooperation.

63. **Mr. Jaber** (Lebanon) said that since the impact of the global financial and economic crisis had been most severe on developing countries, the Committee should pursue the adoption of meaningful measures to alleviate its magnitude, severity and adverse socio-economic implications. The crisis had revealed the pressing need for a comprehensive, equitable and inclusive international financial system. It was high time to reform the Bretton Woods system, particularly its governing structure, so as to increase participation by developing countries in norm-setting and decision-making. The Committee should also contribute towards establishing an effective early warning system to avoid another global crisis. In that connection, Lebanon valued the work done on the new Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System (GIVAS). Other important interlinked issues that should be addressed included agricultural development and food security; international trade and development; poverty eradication; and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

64. The crises had reversed many important development gains and had brought global challenges that had to be addressed in a global scope. The recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs had asserted the urgent need to scale up the global partnership for development and to mobilize the promised ODA to help countries bridge the remaining MDG gaps by 2015. The key to success was political will by developed countries to fulfil their pledges, lest those pledges become a mirage.

65. Climate change, the most serious challenge of modern times, posed a threat not only to socio-economic development but to mankind's very existence. It was high time for the international community in general, and developed countries in

particular, to address that challenge at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancún. Developed countries should commit to the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

66. Biodiversity protection had never been more urgent, given the threat of extinction to species and ecosystems posed by harmful human activities. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity should ascertain the political will and commitments of the international community to the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use and equitable sharing of natural resources and the genuine transfer of technology to developing countries.

67. The Committee's work should be in harmony with the work done by other forums. While Lebanon stressed the importance of comprehensiveness, it recognized the need for effective and timely decision-making and implementation of results. Lebanon was resolved to achieve the MDGs and to address climate change and biodiversity loss based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, in keeping with its respective capabilities and national circumstances.

68. **Mr. Barton** (United States of America) said that the world's economies were still steadying themselves after economic crises, nurturing a fragile yet promising recovery. Natural disasters had affected many, left millions homeless and slowed development in some of the world's neediest places, further adding to the gravity of the critically significant issues on the Committee's agenda.

69. The cooperative spirit that had led to the success of recent high-level meetings on the MDGs, on small island developing States and on biological diversity should also prevail in the Committee and should inform its work in three ways: first, delegations should receive draft proposals for consideration in a timely manner; second, the Committee should do its utmost to continue seeking consensus-based resolutions; and third, the Committee should complete its work on time. He welcomed the efforts to make the Committee's work as effective and efficient as possible.

70. The recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs had reaffirmed the common commitment to achieving the MDGs and had laid the groundwork for

accelerating that process. The Committee had a profound responsibility to build on that momentum by focusing on the issues on which it could find consensus and move forward. In particular, the temptation to revisit divisive themes should be avoided.

71. In his address to the High-level Plenary Meeting, President Obama had unveiled a new United States development strategy that supported full realization of the MDGs and reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to sustainable development and poverty alleviation. That strategy was an outcome- and results-based approach, grounded in the fact that sustained and inclusive economic growth was the surest path to poverty alleviation and development. It stressed the need to foster innovation and deploy new technologies to confront global threats including disease, under-nutrition, climate change and other environmental challenges. The strategy would emphasize country ownership and national responsibility for development, principles requiring accountability from both donors and partner countries. In his statement to the General Assembly, President Obama had noted that when world leaders gathered in the Assembly the following year, they should bring specific commitments to promote transparency, combat corruption, energize civic engagement and leverage new technologies. He hoped that those were goals shared by all throughout the current session of the General Assembly.

72. Practically speaking, the debate within the Committee should move from inputs to outcomes, from directives to partnerships, and from blame to responsibility and accountability. The United States hoped to work with others in advancing consensus on key issues such as continuing the Internet Governance Forum and promoting trade, investment and sustainable development. It was unfortunate that the previous year's draft resolution on international trade and development had been put to the vote and he looked forward to working constructively towards a consensus resolution in 2010. The Committee's work should be conducted in a spirit conducive to taking full advantage of forthcoming opportunities, including in particular the sixteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

73. **Mr. Berger** (Germany) said that the recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs had been a major success for all development partners,

reconfirming global partnership and creating new momentum towards the MDGs. Agreement on the outcome document had underscored the vital role that the United Nations, due to its universal legitimacy, could play in reaching consensus solutions to address global challenges. That consensus should be turned into action. As the third largest donor, Germany was ready to continue its long-standing cooperation with development partners. However, there was no time for complacency, as the next important international review conference still lay ahead: the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011. The world had changed dramatically since the adoption of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. Despite some encouraging progress in those countries, much remained to be done. Germany's contributions to the least developed countries had almost tripled in absolute terms from 1997 to 2008.

74. Climate change would profoundly affect the future, especially for small island developing States. Failure to limit global warming would bring major climatic changes and environmental disasters that might destabilize whole countries and regions — hence the importance of a legally binding international agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change. Cancún must be an important step towards that agreement and towards the effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. As a European Union member State, Germany would fulfil its commitment and provide 1.25 billion euros in 2010 for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including 350 million euros as fast-start financing. Germany's overall commitment of fast-start funding from 2010 to 2012 was 1.26 billion euros, funds used to support its partners in developing low carbon development pathways and to mainstream mitigation and adaptation in national development planning.

75. Germany welcomed the fact that the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction was one of two focus areas for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. Economic growth, development and environmental protection could be mutually beneficial. To advance sustainable development policies worldwide, the international institutions dealing with them needed to be made more efficient. Upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi into a United Nations

specialized agency should therefore be part of the reform package in 2012.

76. The recent High-level event on biodiversity, as well as the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, had revealed an increased awareness of the ecological and economic relevance of biodiversity. It was crucial that the value of natural resources and the service they provided for mankind be understood, quantified and integrated into wider decision-making processes and into the global economic system, with increased efforts to protect natural resources. To that end, Germany had allocated an additional 500 million euros for the years 2009-2012, bringing the total for the period to 1.3 billion euros. For the consecutive years from 2013 onwards, Germany would provide 500 million euros each year. Germany also looked forward to the successful adoption of a protocol on access and benefit-sharing in Nagoya and the establishment of an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in 2010 as developments of utmost importance.

77. The Committee, which remained the cornerstone of the United Nations system with regard to development and economic cooperation, should continue to consider how to make its work more transparent, efficient and relevant. Germany appreciated the Bureau's non-paper on the Committee's working methods and looked forward to further discussions on that issue.

78. **Ms. Flores** (Honduras) said that the conditions of extreme poverty in Honduras and so many parts of the world were inhuman and therefore unacceptable. People from countries where every moment brought home that tragic reality appreciated the unique opportunity of the current debate to share their concerns and apprehensions with those present. Honduras had been repeatedly struck by terrible natural disasters and political or social conflict, as well as the global financial and economic crisis. However, with the help of international solidarity, her country had raised itself up without losing hope. It therefore appreciated the commitments assumed at the Millennium Summit a decade ago. In that spirit, Honduras wished to move forward in the certainty that no goal was impossible given collective efforts and shared responsibility.

79. As indicated in the reports of the Secretary-General, the recent food, fuel and financial crises had

driven some 64 million human beings into poverty. Such an enormous setback, aggravating an already untenable situation, could only cause discouragement. Moreover, ODA and other commitments had not been fulfilled and were being conflated with new assistance to meet the MDGs.

80. The contemporary world with globalized market and financial structures differed completely from the world in which the Bretton Woods institutions had been created. The world could not continue into the twenty-first century with policies and institutions that had not been reviewed or modernized since the end of the Second World War. Since the creation of the Financing for Development Office, very little had been achieved by Member States, while bureaucracy in the United Nations continued growing apace even as poverty extended its hold.

81. Honduras welcomed the encouraging statements made by some of the G-20 countries at the recent MDG summit. For example, several had again proposed a tax on international financial transactions to contribute to the eradication of extreme poverty. As the President of Honduras had noted in his statement, the anti-poverty objectives proposed by the Secretary-General were ambitious but attainable. Nevertheless, the fight against poverty would require further effort and recognition of the collective responsibility to protect and share the global commons.

82. With regard to food security, Honduras had launched a strategic food plan to modernize the agricultural sector. The purpose of the plan was to alleviate levels of poverty in the countryside by increasing competitiveness in the food production chain. However, natural disasters, tariff barriers and the quota regime of the international market were frustrating efforts to reach sustainable food security.

83. The strategy of the International Fund for Agricultural Development in Honduras was directly linked to the country's poverty reduction strategy. In that connection, he noted that the new Government had signed a memorandum of understanding with IMF and the Inter-American Development Bank to reactivate the poverty reduction strategy.

84. The burden of external debt remained a major obstacle to developing countries. Until the vicious circle of backwardness and poverty was broken, despite the relief afforded to heavily indebted poor countries, including Honduras, external dependence

would result in recurrent debt. As the Secretary-General had pointed out, any analysis of debt sustainability must recognize the need to achieve the MDGs without increasing the debt ratio. For Honduras, failure of the Doha Round would be costly. Developed countries continued applying tariffs, quotas and other discriminatory measures to developing country exports at the expense of the fair trade that they had been pursuing. However, at the regional level, an agreement between the Central American Integration System and the European Union had been signed that would facilitate the opening of regional markets in the future.

85. Honduras had developed a policy which gave a high priority to climate change issues. To address the international commitments assumed by Honduras, the Government had recently established a General Directorate for Climate Change within the Ministry of Natural Resources with a view to coordinating activities and seeking resources for natural disaster mitigation. Furthermore, a high-level delegation would attend the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancún.

86. Honduras was paying a high price for emigration. Hondurans in search of a better life for themselves and their families were falling into the hands of unscrupulous traffickers. They left in pursuit of a dream but some never arrived and those who did were increasingly being received with hostility. A few days previously, more than 30 Hondurans had been savagely killed in the so-called "corridor of death". Perhaps that was the inhuman price that Honduras had to pay for continuing to fight for the development it deserved. Even as Hondurans went forward with a positive outlook, they wondered how many more would die before reaching their goal.

87. **Mr. Al-Nasser** (Qatar) said that the recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs had drawn attention to the fact that the global economic crisis had slowed progress in a number of critical areas, including poverty, hunger, disease and the environment. While developing countries had borne a disproportionate share of the impact of the crisis, the crisis had actually originated in the developed countries, which therefore had an obligation to maintain pledged levels of ODA. In turn, developing countries had an obligation to improve governance and make more effective use of their national resources, even as the global financial system was restructured to give them a greater voice in

decision-making. While the G-20 would play a crucial role in that reform process, it would not replace the General Assembly. Developing countries also needed to demonstrate the political will and flexibility to overcome the impasse in the Doha Round.

88. Qatar, which had hosted a side event on food security, welcomed the inclusion of an agenda item on food security at the current session. It was also committed to the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in 2012 would be a test of that Declaration's principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

89. He noted that Qatar had offered to host the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was also scheduled for 2012. It had previously hosted the third Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in November 2009.

90. Lastly, he stressed that great progress towards the MDGs could be achieved if only some of the enormous amounts of money spent on weapons and war could be diverted to humanitarian purposes.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*