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Chairperson: Ms. Ochir (Chairperson) (Mongolia)

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

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions
(*continued*)

(c) External debt sustainability and development
(*continued*) (A/C.2/65/L.6)

Draft resolution on external debt sustainability and development (A/C.2/65/L.6)

1. **Mr. Alyemany** (Yemen) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.6 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*) (A/65/336)

(a) Implementation of the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*) (A/65/230 and A/65/267)

(b) Industrial development cooperation (*continued*) (A/65/220)

2. **Mr. Kpakol** (Nigeria) said that high-quality economic growth with full participation by all was central to poverty eradication. The economic problems of developing countries were compounded by climate change and food insecurity. His delegation was confident that useful synergies would result from the appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the focal point for coordination of the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

3. His country's development plans incorporated the vision of the United Nations and its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Its National Poverty Eradication Programme, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency, and National Directorate for Employment had designed programmes to bring hundreds of thousands of citizens out of poverty and into the economic mainstream. Its "In Care of the People" (COPE) programme provided incentives for households to keep their children in school and send them for medical check-ups, while its Village Solutions programme provided microcredit targeted at agro-processing, which was crucial to lifting rural societies out of poverty both in his country and throughout Africa. His Government was investing heavily in physical infrastructure and human resources with a view to spreading the benefits of development to all its citizens, even in the most remote areas. Its

bottom-up approach to poverty eradication — in which local governments worked closely with rural beneficiaries and encouraged them to play an active role — had proved to be successful.

4. He called for continued partnership with the United Nations Development Programme in identifying opportunities for sustainable private-sector investments and labour market restructuring, and appealed to the United Nations to help youths and militants from the Niger Delta to acquire useful skills. Africa needed genuine international support, including more bilateral partnerships and more foreign direct investment to increase its productive capacity and market reach.

5. **Ms. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) said that poverty eradication required that the benefits of economic growth accrue to the lower end of income distribution. The inclusion of the poorest and the most vulnerable in development was a priority of her country's national agenda. Its national strategy for microfinance had been recognized for making loans accessible to the poor, and a majority of its beneficiaries were women.

6. **Mr. Jafarov** (Azerbaijan) said that despite the global crises, his country had managed to keep its economy growing steadily and decrease its poverty rate dramatically. Moreover, its oil and gas revenues were directly channelled into achieving the MDGs. A number of regional infrastructure projects had given a boost to both his country's economy and that of its neighbours, and national legislation had been adopted to enhance social protection and social services, promote the private sector, and increase the number and quality of economic opportunities. Its national employment strategy was continuing to reduce unemployment with a view to reaching the ultimate goal of full employment and decent work for all.

7. In addition to reducing unemployment, national poverty eradication measures should focus on removing barriers to business, trade and credit. The sharing of best practices was crucial in that regard. While each country had primary responsibility for its own development, national poverty alleviation efforts should be supported by international assistance within the framework of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

8. In conclusion, his delegation suggested including the promotion of better quality and more affordable health and education services in the recommendations set out in the report of the Secretary-General on the

implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/65/230, sect. V).

9. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that while Committee members were discussing poverty in an environment of relative comfort and well-being, close to 1 billion people were crying out of hunger. While the various plans being implemented by the over two dozen United Nations agencies, funds and programmes involved in the Second Decade for the Eradication of Poverty were commendable, it was time to move from ideas on paper to concrete results.

10. Microcredit had shown great promise in meeting the basic needs of lower-income households and increasing their participation in development. Microfinance institutions had proven surprisingly resilient in the face of the global economic and financial crisis, and needed to be adequately funded to meet a demand that was predicted to double over the next half decade. In Bangladesh, where it had originated among rural women in the 1970s, microcredit continued to be run by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It should not be allowed to become a business elsewhere. Interest rates for microcredit in any given country must be kept below the rates charged by the formal banking industry.

11. **Ms. Onon** (Mongolia) said that the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger (Goal 1) remained a challenging task in her country, where the impact of the global crises had been compounded by landlocked geography, susceptibility to natural disasters, infrastructure constraints and dependence on a limited number of commodities. Her Government had taken measures to improve fiscal stability, loosen regulations on microfinance, retrain workers and channel public funding into poverty alleviation. The most effective long-term poverty reduction strategy was employment creation. Her Government was making efforts to promote vocational education that matched labour market requirements, and encouraging the private sector to provide on-the-job training and create incentives to attract skilled labour.

12. National poverty eradication programmes must be complemented by an effective global partnership. She called on the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to continue to give priority to implementing the system-wide plan of action for the Second Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, to

continue their joint activity to implement the Global Jobs Pact and the Social Protection Floor, and to support Member States in strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies for achieving full employment and decent work (A/65/230, para. 89).

13. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the global crisis of capitalism had increased unemployment and poverty, with wide-ranging effects on individuals and society. The socio-economic structure of capitalism dehumanized and degraded society both physically and spiritually. Even in developed states, the crisis caused by financial speculators, with the complicity of the Bretton Woods institutions, had brought about a reduction in social investment that threatened economic, social and cultural rights.

14. By contrast, in his country, social ownership of resources allowed them to be directed towards social goals, such as poverty eradication, empowerment of women and care for children and the disabled. Over the past decade, more than half of tax revenue had been earmarked for social investment. The Government's social missions had insured the inclusion of hitherto marginalized sectors of society. Microcredit had become an important tool for poverty eradication, and the Women's Bank provided loans to women heads of household. Agricultural loans were targeted towards products of strategic importance to food security, and farmers in difficult circumstances were allowed to refinance. Training and technical assistance were provided to small and medium producers and financial institutions were encouraged to allocate a portion of their advertising revenues to the promotion of social values and environmental conservation. As a result of all those social policies, poverty and unemployment rates had fallen sharply, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean had recognized Venezuela as the country in its region that had most reduced inequality.

15. **Mr. Kurer** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that poverty had not decreased rapidly enough, and even more disturbingly, had recently been on the rise in some of the least developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Resources and capacity-building for implementation of national strategies to eradicate poverty and increase food production should be provided without prohibitive conditions. The United Nations should work with donors and the international

financial institutions to ensure that the economic crisis did not bring about a reduction in official development assistance (ODA) and other forms of funding for development.

16. He welcomed the emphasis of the 2009 Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Organization on global partnership to assist the poor and vulnerable by creating jobs and encouraging sustainable enterprises. Microfinance was a useful tool for fostering the creation of such enterprises in the industrial, agricultural and services sectors.

17. His country had launched a “Green Campaign” to harness technology for land reclamation in the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States and throughout Africa, and a project to fight poverty, illiteracy and disease among African women, youth and children. It supported African Union policies to promote regional integration through joint investment, financed institutions that provided business loans in Sahelo-Saharan States, and encouraged its own citizens to increase their private investments in African countries.

18. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that one of her country’s main objectives in the past decade had been to reduce significantly the number of people living in poverty and extreme poverty. To that end, it had been implementing its own poverty reduction strategies based on the MDG agenda, with positive, if inadequate, results. In the past eight years, some 1.7 million Colombians had overcome poverty, but her country’s goal was to accelerate progress with a view to enabling 7 million Colombians to overcome poverty and for 4 million to overcome extreme poverty in the next four years. Financial incentives to assist the most vulnerable households had helped to increase their access to decent employment and health and education services, and ensured better coverage of their basic food and housing needs. Subsidies and social services had also been provided to millions of low-income families under special national programmes and initiatives.

19. Her country had already met the MDG targets for gross coverage of primary education, triple viral vaccination, childbirths in hospital settings and the elimination of ozone-depleting substances. Achievement of other indicators, including the percentage of women who had had four or more prenatal check-ups, the reduction of mortality caused by malaria and dengue fever and basic sanitation coverage in rural areas, ranged from 82 to 96.5 per cent.

20. The United Nations must play a key role in identifying bottlenecks to progress and proposing fast-track solutions to them, based on cooperation; keeping the MDGs on the public agenda; strengthening capacities for designing and implementing policies at the local level; and enhancing follow-up on progress made. Cooperation should be system-wide and take an integral approach to meeting communities’ needs with regard to safe drinking water, housing, education, health, land registration, energy and communication. She also emphasized the importance of supporting national measures for job creation, which, together with solid social security programmes, were one of the pillars of her country’s policies to address poverty and achieve prosperity.

21. Colombia was prepared to share its valuable experiences and lessons learned in implementing the MDGs in such areas as aid effectiveness, women’s economic empowerment, public health and sustainable development, and with respect to targeted integrated programmes.

22. **Archbishop Francis Chullikatt** (Observer for the Holy See) said that poverty was multidimensional and complex. In the poorer countries, it was the result of low income and lack of the basic necessities of life. Poverty in the developing countries was relative and resulted from insufficient financial and material resources to provide an acceptable standard of living. Poverty was a reality even in the affluent societies. One of the deepest forms of poverty, as Pope Benedict XVI had pointed out, was isolation, which was the root of other kinds of poverty, such as not being loved or the inability to love. All forms of poverty undermined the dignity of human persons and their enjoyment of fundamental human rights, starting with the right to life.

23. Poverty also had moral implications. It affected children, the disabled, the elderly and women especially. Half of those currently living in absolute poverty were children, and priority must be given to what concerned them most directly, namely, family, education, medical care and environmental protection. Unfortunately, the food, fuel and financial crises since 2008 had slowed down, and even reversed, progress towards the eradication of poverty in developing countries. It had been estimated that 64 million more people were now living in extreme poverty while some 40 million more had gone hungry last year, and that by 2015, 1.2 million more children under 5 might die, 350,000 more students might fail to complete primary school, and some 100 million might remain without

access to safe water. Yet many donors had already reduced the small percentage of gross national income they contributed as ODA and were instead devoting such resources to stabilizing their own financial systems. As countries began showing signs of recovery, development assistance to the poorest countries must be guided by the principle of global solidarity between rich and poor countries in common recognition of belonging to one human family.

24. The global economic crisis had led to rising unemployment, especially among young people, and to a deterioration of the living conditions of the poor everywhere. Rather than leaving them to their fate, the world must show greater solidarity with them. The social doctrine of the church stated that every man had the right to claim what he needed from the Earth, and that God intended the Earth and everything in it for the use of all human beings and peoples.

25. Solidarity was a virtue and not merely a vague feeling of compassion. It was rather the determination to pursue the common good based on mutual responsibility for others. Beyond that, the poor must be helped to take their own initiatives to improve their conditions and become the architects of their own development; otherwise, initiative would be replaced by passivity, dependence and submission to bureaucracy. Thus, investing in education and training was crucial.

26. The poor must also have access to medical care to fight the pandemic diseases that affected many populations. That required the promotion of medical research and innovative forms of treatment and flexible application of the international rules protecting intellectual property. Low-income countries must also be assured access to global markets by according them preferential treatment.

27. In conclusion, the eradication of poverty was an obligation of the international community and its promises to the poor must be considered binding commitments.

28. **Ms. Solomon** (Observer for the International Organization for Migration) said that in a globalized world, poverty and human mobility were more interrelated than ever. Migration was a powerful expression of an individual's freedom and right to development, and, when humanely managed, provided positive support for development in both countries of origin and of destination; but the interlinkages between migration and poverty eradication were complex and could be either positive or negative. While

international migration could contribute to a decline in the number of people living in poverty, the brain drain could seriously challenge development efforts in some countries of origin.

29. Remittances of some US\$ 316 billion to developing countries in 2009 meant that migrants continued to provide a lifeline to the people of many poor countries. In at least seven, those remittances accounted for more than a quarter of gross domestic product and could help reduce poverty by providing families in the countries of origin with critical income. Most of the some 214 million international migrants in the world were engaged in remunerative economic activity. Their economic and social behaviour and aspirations must be factored into any discussion of poverty reduction, particularly as migrant numbers were expected to rise to 450 million by the year 2050.

30. Human mobility must be integrated into the design, implementation monitoring and evaluation of development and poverty reduction strategies and policies. IOM was committed to supporting such efforts in cooperation with its national partners. The Handbook on Mainstreaming Migration into Poverty Reduction and Development Planning Tools prepared by IOM in collaboration with the Global Migration Group would be launched in November at the Global Forum on Migration and Development. It was a practical tool, soon to be supplemented by a training programme to support mainstreaming exercises and would be an important reference tool for other stakeholders interested in learning more about the interplay between migration and development. The Handbook gave priority to supporting the main national decision-making bodies on development and to trends and linkages between migration and development at the national level.

31. The economic and social costs and benefits of migration were hard to quantify, but the rights of migrants could not be separated from the poverty eradication impact of migration, particularly in times of economic downturn.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.