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Chair: Mr. Momen (Bangladesh)

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

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, reaffirmed its commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the importance of cooperation and trade in that connection. In the face of the continuing economic and financial crisis in much of the developing world, including Latin America and the Caribbean, reform of the international financial system and architecture was crucial. Predictable financing for development, the availability of funds to meet urgent needs created by the crisis in developing countries and, if possible, the establishment of an international mechanism for debt arbitration and management were priority objectives. He called on the international community to ensure a successful outcome of the Doha Round for Development, reject protectionist measures, end the conditions imposed by international economic and financial organizations on developing countries and support national counter-cyclical policies.

2. While complementary support through innovative financing for development mechanisms was voluntary, developed countries should feel obligated to honour their pledge to devote 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) to official development assistance (ODA) by 2015. The Rio Group called for additional general allocations of special drawing rights (SDRs), which could serve to increase global liquidity and promote development. It welcomed the inclusion of a new sub-item in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the central role of the United Nations system in global governance; that role should be strengthened in accordance with General Assembly resolution 65/94.

3. With regard to international migration, the concerns of the countries of origin and of transit and host countries must be addressed in an integrated and balanced manner during the current session. A new cooperation model was required in order to deal with the development challenges confronting middle-income countries in a more holistic and country-specific context.

4. Although it contributed to sustainable development, South-South cooperation merely complemented and was no substitute for North-South cooperation. The guidelines set out by the High-level

United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in December 2009 in Kenya, should be heeded. Action was required to stem the deterioration of natural resources, ensure food security and reduce poverty, social exclusion and natural disasters. To that end, the international community should mobilize existing and new technological, financial and scientific resources. The preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, was crucial to the definition of targets and commitments and must involve the developing countries. The Conference should confirm the principles formulated in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and address the commitments made in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

5. Negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should lead to urgent global action based on the principles formulated in the Convention, particularly those of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and aimed at adaptation to climate change, mitigation of its effects and resilience to its impact. Developing countries needed new, additional and predictable financial resources, capacity-building and technology in order to cope with climate change. The Rio Group supported the two-track negotiations being conducted through the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention. At the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Durban, South Africa later in the year, Annex I Parties should undertake even greater commitments in accordance with the demands of science, fairness and historical responsibility. The Rio Group hoped that the Conference would result in a comprehensive and balanced agreement, the adoption of a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol and the full operationalization of the

mechanisms designed in Cancún, Mexico, in 2010, including the Green Climate Fund.

6. Referring to the adoption and opening for signature of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization, he said that the Rio Group called for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, 2011-2020. Indigenous and local communities could contribute significantly to sustainable development through traditional knowledge and were therefore entitled to respect for their customs and cultural values and to a fair share of the benefits from the use of such knowledge. Noting the broad participation in the recent high-level meeting convened by the General Assembly on the theme “Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”, he expressed the hope that specific measures would be adopted at the impending tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to be held in the Republic of Korea. He stressed the need for a synergetic approach to that Convention, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Agriculture development and food security were vital aspects of combating desertification. Fulfilment of financing commitments, including ODA and new and additional resources for small island developing States; an effectively functioning Global Environment Facility; and a stronger scientific component with input from developing country experts would also be crucial to that end.

7. **Mr. Kim Sook** (Republic of Korea) said that the forthcoming Rio Conference on Sustainable Development would provide a historic opportunity to promote sustainable development, which called for a fundamental transformation of consumption and production patterns and lifestyles. A strengthened national, regional and international institutional framework would also be crucial to the fulfilment of international commitments and agreements. As part of the preparatory process for the Conference, a draft outcome document, based on contributions from all Member States, United Nations agencies and major groups, would be drawn up to serve as the basis for negotiations. The Republic of Korea planned to cooperate with other Member States in order to maintain the momentum created in Cancún in 2010 and

establish a post-2012 regime during the forthcoming seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban. As host country for the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, it would spare no effort to strengthen international partnership for that purpose.

8. Steady, inclusive and equitable economic growth was a key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Post-2015 issues should be discussed to the extent that they did not impede efforts to attain those Goals by 2015. Additional follow-up measures to General Assembly resolution 65/10, which his country had co-sponsored, should be considered during the current session. As host country of the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held from 29 November to 1 December, the Republic of Korea would seek to encourage broader and inclusive cooperation among all development actors in order to accelerate progress on the Millennium Development Goals. The development agenda adopted at the Group of 20 (G-20) Seoul Summit in 2010 was expected to supplement efforts to achieve those Goals by addressing bottlenecks which prevented sustainable economic growth. The Republic of Korea planned to contribute actively to the fifth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and, as a member of the Lending Group on Innovative Financing for Development, welcomed the Committee’s decision to hold a separate discussion on that issue. Lastly, for all the widespread suffering that it had caused in developed and developing countries, the global financial and economic crisis offered an opportunity to address the issue of global economic governance from a broader perspective.

9. **Mr. Shakir** (Maldives) expressed the hope that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development would result in specific measures for translating the principle of sustainable development into tangible policy improvements and redefining rules for economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development. Such improvements required mechanisms to provide countries with the requisite technical expertise and financial means. The natural environment was the key determinant of sustainable development and mankind must implement nature-friendly production processes.

10. Climate change posed an existential threat to Maldives, a small, low-lying island State, which viewed the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a matter of national security, planned to become carbon-neutral by 2020 and expected the Rio Conference to boost green technology associated with a shift to renewable sources of electricity.

11. Current institutional support systems were largely inadequate in the face of the challenges confronting small island developing States, which should be formally recognized as a specific group within the United Nations system. There was a risk that the international community might overlook many such States, including Maldives, because of their middle-income country status. The development partners should honour without delay all commitments related to the States in question. Lastly, he welcomed South Sudan and the Transitional National Council of Libya into the United Nations, and called upon all Member States to support a long overdue two-State solution by recognizing a sovereign Palestinian State.

12. **Mr. León González** (Cuba) said that the situation of the planet's main economy and other key economies in Europe, and the effects of that situation upon those societies and the rest of the world, showed that the international community was ever farther away from reaching a solution to the global economic and financial crisis, which was closely linked with food, energy, environmental and social and political problems. The gap between developed countries and the Third World continued to widen, while poverty and chronic hunger affecting hundreds of millions of people, many of them children under five, were on the rise amid financial instability, dramatic rises in food prices and increasing concentration of wealth. The root cause of such phenomena lay in the current unjust and antidemocratic international order, which was based on a development model characterized by deeply unsustainable patterns of production, consumption and distribution. Political, economic, social and ecological logic required a radical transformation of those patterns.

13. The Group of 77 had worked hard on a number of draft resolutions it would be submitting to the Committee. The developed countries should reciprocate by bringing a positive attitude to the negotiations. Second Committee issues were also being addressed in parallel forums, such as, for instance, the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Durban. It was to be hoped that at that Conference, the developed countries would agree to a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. Greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the countries of the South should not obstruct their right to development but must involve voluntary mitigation measures. At the 2012 Rio Conference, the international community, especially developed countries should be urged to meet their commitments under Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The Conference should also reaffirm the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular those relating to common but differentiated responsibilities, the sovereign right of States to exploit their own resources, and the essential task of eradicating poverty.

14. As the problems had worsened and multiplied, a renewed political commitment was necessary. The unique circumstances under which it struggled for development despite the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America had made Cuba a strong proponent of the need to fight for a new international economic order based on justice, equity and solidarity.

15. *Mr. Zdorov (Belarus), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

16. **Mr. De Vega** (Philippines), said that his delegation welcomed the inclusion of a new item on people's empowerment and a peace-centric development model in the Committee's agenda. In recent decades, the Philippines had consistently considered peoples' empowerment as a path to peace and prosperity. Serious weather disturbances in his country and the ongoing drought and famine in the Horn of Africa provided grim evidence of a food security crisis and of huge gaps in progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As the 2012 Rio Conference approached, serious questions remained on how to reaffirm and implement the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The ongoing global economic and financial crisis and its consequences constituted a major concern in view of the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. All those challenges would be

overcome only when international relations were firmly anchored in a rules-based system.

17. To that end, it was necessary to ensure an early conclusion of the Doha Round and establish a fair and open multilateral trading system. South-South cooperation should complement but not be seen as a substitute for North-South cooperation. The developed nations should meet their commitments and responsibilities to the developing world, including in the area of international migration. It was incumbent upon the United Nations to play the central role in managing and guiding efforts towards meeting the 2015 deadline for attaining the Millennium Development Goals and looking beyond it. Disaster risk reduction should be viewed as a cross-cutting element crucial to sustainable development. It was also essential to protect and revitalize family farming, which was a nuclear unit for the environment-friendly management of land and biodiversity and could contribute to food security and poverty alleviation. As the international community looked forward to the 2012 Rio Conference, the world's political commitment to sustainable development must be more powerfully expressed.

18. **Mr. Askarov** (Uzbekistan) said that the global financial and economic crisis underscored the need for Governments to pursue responsible policies aimed at establishing a stable and diverse foundation for sustainable economic development. At the first signs of the impending economic downturn, Uzbekistan had begun implementing a number of pre-emptive economic, financial and institutional measures. Thus, in a period of global economic stagnation, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) had more than tripled and the population's aggregate income had increased 20-fold.

19. Priority had been given to the processing sectors, ensuring the continued manufacture of key value-added goods such as automobiles, electronics, oil and gas products, machinery and other high-technology products. In order to guarantee the financing of projects vital to national economic development, a reconstruction fund established in 2006 had channelled its accumulated assets into underwriting the technological and infrastructure modernization of the country's economy, while insulating it from external uncertainties.

20. As a result, stable economic growth played an extremely positive role in the economic rebirth of the region as a whole. Afghanistan, in particular, benefited from secure deliveries of electricity to its capital, Kabul, and its northern provinces, while the newly opened Termez-Mazar-e-Sharif railway line reinvigorated regional trade.

21. However, despite the progress already achieved, Central Asia faced potentially huge environmental problems, in particular with regard to the ecological disaster associated with the Aral Sea. Given the sea's transformation in a single lifetime from a unique maritime resource into a rapidly dwindling body of stagnant water, plans to construct hydroelectric dams on the upper reaches of the Amudarya and Syrdarya Rivers were fraught with ecological, social and sanitation health risks. His Government believed that questions involving shared resources needed to be addressed multilaterally, and therefore considered that a more viable solution to the region's energy problems would be the construction of several smaller hydroelectric plants, with an equivalent energy output.

22. **Mr. Kurien** (India) said that the global economic situation, including structural impediments in many leading economies, the sovereign debt situation in Europe and widespread increase in unemployment could be attributed to unsustainable consumption and production patterns in the developed world. Global economic recovery was contingent upon sustained economic growth, especially in the developing countries, which faced many challenges, including, first and foremost, poverty eradication. Ambitions with regard to the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, must not be lowered. The promotion of universal access to food and energy should be the core element of the international community's development strategy. Four years before the Millennium Development Goals deadline, post-2015 discussion should not dilute efforts to attain those Goals. Developed countries should honour as early as possible their pledge to devote 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) to official development assistance (ODA). Access to technology on affordable terms and capacity-building were also crucial. While India remained committed to sharing its development experience with fellow developing countries, it believed that South-South cooperation could not be a substitute for North-South cooperation;

nor could innovative sources of financing be equated with traditional forms of financing for development.

23. The 2012 Rio Conference would offer promising prospects for implementing the global sustainable development agenda on the basis of the Rio principles. “Green economy” efforts should mainly aim at sustainable solutions for issues relating to food security, access to energy, water stress, natural resource regeneration, rapid urbanization and poverty reduction. Technology transfer was crucial to success. Use of generic medicines had shown the advantages of flexibility in the intellectual property rights system. India believed that fair returns to innovators should be balanced with the greater public good.

24. At the Durban Climate Change Conference, India would work hard to achieve a comprehensive, equitable and balanced outcome based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. A second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol was imperative. India would also seek an early implementation of the Cancún Agreements, including the Green Climate Fund, the Technology Mechanism and the Adaptation Committee. The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa needed enhanced support from the international community. The Istanbul Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Almaty Programme of Action and the issues considered at the recent High-level Meeting convened by the General Assembly on desertification deserved priority attention. The Nagoya Protocol, finalized in 2010 after years of labour, must be implemented, particularly through the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

25. **Mr. Elkrekshi** (Libya) said that although the current economic and financial crises had originated in the main financial centres, their effects had been keenly felt in developing countries and the least developed countries. For structural reasons, many developing countries lacked the resources required to achieve the MDGs by 2015. Implementation of the ODA commitments enshrined in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development had faltered, and only a very small number of countries had reached the target

of 0.7 per cent of gross national product. Problems such as poverty, the foreign debt burden, food insecurity and the effects of climate change prevented developing countries from focusing on realizing the MDGs. Developing countries continued to face barriers to international trade.

26. Member States should take collective action in order to alleviate the effects of the crises and prevent their recurrence. In particular, they should make efforts to reform and modernize the international financial institutions, increasing the representation of developing countries. They should seek to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in promoting socio-economic development and combating poverty, disease and hunger.

27. The declaration of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020), the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2008-2018) and the high-level meeting on the topic that had recently been convened at the General Assembly should all encourage the United Nations, Member States and, in particular, donor States to assist the millions of people affected by the issue. As a country with an arid climate, Libya relied on non-renewable aquifers for its agriculture and was particularly vulnerable to climate change. Cooperation with regional and international partners was therefore essential. For that reason, he hoped for a successful outcome to the tenth session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification to be held in Changwon, Republic of Korea, from 10 to 21 October, the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 9 December and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, in June 2012.

28. More than ever before, Libya stood prepared to cooperate with stakeholders in order to tackle those challenges. The radical transition towards democracy, social justice, economic transparency, peacebuilding and the establishment of a civilian State constituted a historic opportunity for the international community to express its support for Libya and its people. In particular, assistance would be needed in order to trace the funds stolen by the Qadhafi family and their associates. Many of those funds had been frozen or were registered in the name of third parties. Their

retrieval would make a direct contribution to Libya's reconstruction at a particularly sensitive time.

29. **Mr. Noziri** (Tajikistan) said that Tajikistan endeavoured to use its own capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Currently, the international community had reached the ultimate quantitative growth, and a qualitatively new conceptual approach to development was called for in order to take into account the interests of both current and future generations. Direct investment and open, fair, predictable and non-discriminatory international trade would help to achieving the development goals. Tajikistan was currently engaged in negotiations to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) and sought the support of Member States in that process. Regional trade and economic cooperation were also fundamental and Tajikistan had recently acceded to the 1965 Convention on Transit Trade of Land-locked States. The United Nations should remain a centre for the coordination of efforts in the areas of food security and financial and technical support and technology transfer to the developing countries. To that end, its capacity to respond effectively to the global challenges and threats of the new millennium must be strengthened.

30. Access to energy was crucial to social and economic development and the eradication of poverty and hunger. Tajikistan, therefore, fully supported providing universal access to modern energy services and reducing global energy intensity by 40 per cent by 2030. Universal development and use of renewable energy was key to addressing climate change. Projects aimed at relevant technology transfer and enhanced efficiency of energy supply and conservation deserved active support. In order to address the growing impact of climate change, the international community should take measures to ensure water supply to the population and to economic sectors dependent on water resources. In that connection, Tajikistan had initiated General Assembly resolution 65/154, declaring 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation; and, at the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, held in December 2009, had proposed the establishment of an international fund to save glaciers. Adoption by the Second Committee of a resolution on measures to preserve glaciers and other sources of fresh water would raise international awareness of that strategically important issue.

31. **Mr. Okubotin** (Nigeria) said that the impact of the global economic crisis on African countries,

especially the smallest and poorest, was far worse than expected. The crisis threatened to wipe out the gains that Africa had made in the past decade, and most of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa were not likely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In view of the intrinsic connection between trade and development, Nigeria advocated a rapid conclusion of the Doha Round and urged the developed countries to accept a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that would contribute to growth, development and employment, and to remove agricultural subsidies, which distorted the market. The rules on intellectual property rights should be amended in order to provide developing countries with access to new technologies and products. South-South cooperation had enabled many developing countries to benefit from new investment inflows and technology transfer. The Nigerian technical aid scheme for Caribbean and African countries was a case in point. In that connection, efforts should also be made within regional organizations to address the concerns and needs of the less developed member States.

32. It was increasingly evident that most developing countries would be unable to attain the Millennium Development Goals without substantial support from the developed partners. Despite promises from countries that were members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), actual aid or loans to developing countries had been insignificant, even though the success of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) had shown that, with sustained international support and solidarity, Africa countries had made appreciable strides in the areas of governance and sustainable development. The fifth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development would present a new opportunity to reiterate the need for mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the commitments made under the Monterrey Consensus and to consider innovative sources for development financing, including microfinance institutions. Genuine reform of the international financial system was necessary in order to support sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development, and hunger and poverty eradication efforts in developing countries. In the context of the struggle for sustainability, he noted

the death of the Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai.

33. The resounding success of the High-level Meeting convened by the General Assembly on desertification had given hope that the international community would pay due attention to that issue, especially in Africa. Nigeria was taking measures to address the negative impact of desertification and land degradation in the Lake Chad basin.

34. *Mr. Momen (Bangladesh), Chair, resumed the Chair.*

35. **Ms. Ochir** (Mongolia) said that, as a result of multiple crises, large-scale disasters and uncertainty, many developing countries were losing hard-won development gains and found it difficult to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The international community must consider new ways of life, beyond consumerism and speculative investment, and formulate sound strategies for sustainable development. Global partnership for development commitments must be met, the Doha Round should lead to enhanced aid-for-trade measures, environmental and development stimuli should take precedence over debt restructuring and the 2012 Rio Conference must provide an institutional framework conducive to green technologies and national capacity-building in energy production, construction and agriculture. Lastly, the role of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development could be enhanced in view of the need for a governance system capable of fostering international consensus and inclusive dialogue on efficient and effective solutions to global economic, social and environmental issues.

36. Her Government took specific measures to promote human development by, inter alia, directly channelling revenue from the exploitation of natural resources into health, education, housing and other social services. The Development Bank of Mongolia had been recently established to strengthen such critical sectors as infrastructure and mining in what was expected to be the fastest growing economy in the region. Mongolia was also making every effort to create a favourable business environment attractive to investors. It hoped that with support from its development partners, it would become more meaningfully integrated into the regional and world economy, have favourable trade access, improve its

transportation system and introduce green technologies and innovative sources of financing.

37. **Mr. Wang Min** (China), referring to current challenges, such as climate change, natural disasters, food and energy security issues, imbalance in development between North and South and the Millennium Development Goals, said that the international financial crisis had served as a catalyst for the reform of international economic and financial systems, and that the structural adjustment of the world economy would offer new opportunities for promoting sustainable development and innovative forms of sustainable growth. The United Nations should play a leading role in promoting global economic recovery and laying a solid foundation for development. Countries should strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination with a view to achieving balanced, sustainable and inclusive global growth, which was crucial to poverty eradication and to dealing with unemployment and the debt problem. The developed countries, in particular, should adopt responsible fiscal and monetary policies, promote investment and refrain from protectionism.

38. With a view to transforming the mode of growth and improving the quality of development, the developed countries should change their unsustainable production and consumption patterns and help the developing countries to enhance their development capacity. At the 2012 Rio Conference, the international community should uphold the Rio principles and build on the concept of “common but differentiated responsibilities” to formulate a forward-looking programme of action for the comprehensive advancement of the sustainable development agenda.

39. The international community should honour its commitments, including with respect to ODA, and increase its input in development. Public finance remained the core of international development assistance. The developed countries should provide the developing economies with financial assistance, technology, market access and debt relief to help to reduce poverty and improve health care and education, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries. While South-South cooperation had great potential, it was not a substitute for, but a complement to, North-South cooperation.

40. The international community must show greater political will and improve the development system. All

sides, especially the developed countries, must display good faith, flexibility and a spirit of cooperation in efforts to instil greater fairness, inclusiveness and order in the international monetary and financial systems by strengthening the voice and representation of the developing countries. The Doha Round should lead to an equitable trading system, and the Durban Climate Change Conference should produce balanced and pragmatic results in accordance with the dual-track process based on the Bali road map.

41. Despite multiple economic challenges of its own, China had granted assistance to over 120 countries, cancelled 380 debts of 50 heavily indebted poor countries and least developed countries, was making preparations to grant zero-tariff treatment to 95 per cent of exports from African least developed countries which had diplomatic relations with China and had provided considerable emergency food relief to the Horn of Africa. Within the framework of South-South cooperation, China would continue to provide assistance to other developing countries to the extent of its capabilities. Through structural adjustments, its most recent five-year plan based on scientific development and its commitment to narrow development gaps within the country, China expected to maintain a stable and relatively fast pace of economic growth and to continue to contribute to the recovery and development of the world economy.

42. **Ms. Nujoma** (Namibia) said that most of the developing countries were confronted with numerous shared challenges, including extreme poverty, food shortages and insecurity, high unemployment, an external debt burden, lack of financial assistance and the negative effects of climate change. Strong and sustained growth was crucial to meeting the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. Middle-income countries, as a group, had the fastest growing population; despite income gains, they were home to two thirds of the world's extremely poor people. For African middle-income countries, the areas of greatest concern were investment; capacity-building; knowledge transfer; agricultural productivity; and power, telecommunications, and transport infrastructure. Help from the United Nations Development Group and other development partners in those sectors could increase growth, build more effective economies, and prepare them for the second round of the global financial crisis.

43. Namibia's considerable successes were based on sound governance and respect for human rights and basic civic freedoms. However, the social and economic imbalances of the former apartheid system had left the country with a two-tier society. Job creation was difficult, and poverty and inequality remained unacceptably high. As a result, Namibia needed assistance in the framework of the global partnership for development (Millennium Development Goal 8). Stressing the significance of the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, she called for a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol and welcomed the High-level Meeting convened by the General Assembly in September on the theme "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication". The meeting had highlighted the importance of strengthening the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the most neglected of the three Rio Conventions. Meagre harvests and abandoned farms caused by land degradation were costing Namibia some US\$ 60 million in lost productivity every year. In response, the Namibian Government was cooperating with civil society groups through a national programme to combat desertification and had adopted a green scheme project and a national climate policy. In fact, Namibia was one of a few countries to implement an integrated sustainable land-management programme. The 2012 Rio Conference would provide an opportunity to renew political commitment in implementing earlier decisions, and to reaffirm a balanced approach to the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development.

44. **Mr. Al-Jaber** (Qatar) said that globalization had undoubtedly created many opportunities, but also a range of problems in attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. Making use of those opportunities, a number of developing countries had made important strides in reducing poverty and eradicating hunger and epidemics. However, more than halfway to the deadline for achieving the Goal of halving poverty by 2015, their progress was starting to falter as a result both of the global financial and economic crisis and of the food crisis. That situation should be the starting point of the Committee's dialogue in the current year. The fifth High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly

on Financing for Development to be held on 7 and 8 December 2011 should provide an opportunity to promote the interests of developing countries.

45. Although the crisis had originated primarily in developed countries, the least developed countries would be the most affected by its consequences. Consequently, the interest of those countries had to be at the heart of the endeavours to find a solution to the crisis. The world financial system should be restructured in a way that ensured equitable decision-making and provided developing countries with sufficient resources, did not impede their capacity to develop their domestic resources, and allowed for local investment.

46. Qatar attached great importance to South-South cooperation, and to triangular cooperation involving countries of the North, in the economic, financial and technical fields. Global partnership and, in particular, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), would be of great importance for the realization of the MDGs. The continuing deadlock in the negotiations on the Doha Round posed a significant threat to the multilateral trading system, as well as to countries' ability to achieve the MDGs. Qatar called on the developed countries to demonstrate good faith and flexibility to ensure the success of the Doha Round.

47. Qatar remained fully committed to the principles enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular Principle 7 on common but differentiated responsibilities, the continuing implementation of Agenda 21, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. Effective solutions to climate change could be found only through an integrated approach. The 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development would be a real test of the international community's readiness to shoulder its responsibilities.

48. Qatar had hosted the third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in November 2009, and would host the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in April 2012. On 24 September 2010, at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Qatar had hosted a side event on food security proposing the idea of a Global Dry Land Alliance with a view to developing food security strategies for arid regions. Further

consultations with a wide range of international organizations and other stakeholders had highlighted considerable support for the proposal.

49. 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.

50. **Mr. Valero** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the current global capitalist system perpetuated the habits and interests of speculators (including in the foodstuffs, metals and energy markets); disrespect for nature; and a sort of recolonization of the developing world in order to appropriate its natural resources. The United Nations should respond by encouraging 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 to achieve progress in its work, regulating the Bretton Woods institutions and promoting an alternative financial system that could increase liquidity in the developing countries.

51. Most of the developed countries failed to fulfil their international commitments and, as a result, the Millennium Development Goals were far from being achieved. Through a number of organizations, including the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) and Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean strove to develop their own solidarity-based mechanisms for integration and development. The 2012 Rio Conference could provide a basis for the defence of humanity and the planet; it should not be allowed to become a graveyard for the United Nations conventions on biological diversity, climate change and desertification or the Kyoto Protocol. Stressing the paramount importance of a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, he said that the developed countries' idea of a voluntary approach to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions was bound to fail. Nor could the necessary radical change of course be accomplished by instituting a so-called green economy that amounted to mere "greenwashing" of energy policies actually designed to weaken the members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). In reality, renewable and non-renewable forms of energy were complementary. In that spirit, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had signed such international instruments

as the “Declaration of Panama: Energy for Sustainable Development” and the “Declaration of Margarita: Building the Energy Integration of the South”.

52. **Mr. Muhith** (Bangladesh) said that, in order to overcome uncertainty and instability in the international financial, currency, trade and commodity markets, the international community must not only take immediate steps but also proceed with systemic reforms. Current problems, including soaring grain prices, a volatile petroleum market which distorted the global economy, climate change, lack of funding and technology transfer, extreme poverty, unemployment, trade imbalances and delays in attaining the Millennium Development Goals, called for extensive restructuring in the management of finance, development assistance, trade and money. Regulatory control of the financial market was necessary in order to generate liquidity. In that context, the role of the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund should be reviewed in the framework of the next conference on financing for development. Without unusual measures to protect fragile and vulnerable countries, no happiness was in store for the international community. The inequalities that existed between and within countries did not bode well for civilization.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.