

**Economic and Social Council**

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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 24 July 2012, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. de Alba (Vice-President) (Mexico)**Contents**Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits
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In the absence of Mr. Koterec (Slovakia), Mr. de Alba (Mexico), Vice-President, took the Chair.

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

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*)

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (*continued*) (E/2012/75-A/67/88 and E/2012/33)

1. **Mr. Diarra** (Under-Secretary-General; High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (E/2012/75-A/67/88), said that the report set the benchmark against which future progress would be measured by assessing the achievements of the past decade and analysing the current situation in the eight priority areas identified in the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

2. Economic growth in the least developed countries had picked up significantly in the past decade but still stood below the 7 per cent target set in the Brussels Programme of Action and in the Istanbul Programme of Action. Most least developed countries had not witnessed any meaningful structural changes; natural resources accounted for a growing share of gross domestic product (GDP) while infrastructure development had remained mixed with an impressive expansion of mobile communications but more modest growth of the Internet, electricity generation and transportation. Agricultural output had not grown markedly in most least developed countries, but food security had improved as a result of institutional innovations such as social safety nets.

3. At the same time, the least developed countries' share of global trade had increased, although that expansion had been driven by natural resources and low-skilled manufactured goods, and while the number of preferential market access schemes had grown, stringent rules of origin, preference erosion and non-tariff barriers had limited their effectiveness. In addition, infrastructure bottlenecks and limited supply response had hampered the ability of the least

developed countries to harness the full potential of preferences. The World Trade Organization (WTO) had recently agreed to streamline and facilitate the accession progress for those countries and it was crucial that the relevant guidelines should be amended in order to facilitate accession negotiations.

4. Most least developed countries had made important progress in terms of human and social development, including greater access to universal primary education and the adoption of gender equality and empowerment goals. While HIV and maternal, child and infant mortality rates had experienced significant reductions over the past decade, they remained unacceptably high.

5. On the economic front, the least developed countries had registered commendable progress in creating buffers to external shocks. Reserve accumulation and reduction of domestic debt had permitted them to shield their economies to a certain extent from the rising costs of food and fuel and, at least initially, from the worst effects of the global financial and economic crisis. That resilience had been facilitated by rising official development assistance (ODA) levels with the European Union and Canada reaching the lower 0.15 per cent target set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2011 and 2010, respectively, and Finland and the United Kingdom reaching the 0.2 per cent target in 2010 for the first time. However, overall bilateral aid to those countries had declined in real terms for the first time in a decade.

6. There had been growing attention to the issues of climate change, environmental sustainability and disaster reduction in the least developed countries. However, regional and international schemes designed to complement their efforts to build resilience and mitigate the effects of shocks remained deficient. Key achievements in the area of governance included a continued commitment to combating corruption, improving budget execution and reporting, as well as the quota and voice reforms in the Bretton Woods institutions.

7. As a result of such positive economic and social developments, a growing number of least developed countries, though still very few, had met the criteria for graduation from least-developed status or were likely to do so in the years to come. Samoa was expected to graduate in 2014; Equatorial Guinea, Tuvalu and Vanuatu had met the graduation criteria for three years

running; and Kiribati and Angola had done so for the first time. However, graduation presented both advantages and challenges. In order to ease the transition, paragraph 137 bis of the Istanbul Programme of Action (A/CONF.219/3) had invited the General Assembly to establish an ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category; that working group had subsequently issued a report that recommended a series of systematic and coherent global measures to support smooth transitions in graduating countries (A/67/92).

8. The provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action had begun to be implemented and were increasingly reflected in the national development plans and long-term strategies of such countries as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi and Mauritania. On the donor side, references to the Programme of Action had begun to appear in strategic documents. In order to accelerate that integration, the governing bodies of many United Nations system entities and other organizations had called for mainstreaming the Programme of Action into their respective programmes of work in all the priority areas established therein and had agreed on a road map for its implementation.

9. Non-governmental stakeholders, such as parliaments, civil society and the private sector, had likewise begun to implement the Programme of Action. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) had anchored efforts to harness the contribution of parliaments and a similar role was being played by the Global Compact, which had accelerated the establishment of local networks to serve as platforms for promoting linkages and sharing lessons learned among members of the business community. Civil society organizations had held consultations in many least developed countries and LDC IV Monitor, a consortium of think tanks and academic institutions from least developed and partner countries, had been established in order to complement existing follow-up and review mechanisms by offering policy research and outreach activities.

10. The first year of implementation of the Programme of Action had been encouraging and efforts should now be scaled up. The least developed countries would fulfil their long-term development aspirations if due consideration were given to productive capacity development, access to knowledge and technology,

better delivery of social services, resilience-building and improved governance. Development partners should support those countries by providing increased, targeted, timely and adequate support, making the Green Climate Fund operational, increasing the quantity and quality of financial support channelled through ODA and delivering on trade-related commitments.

11. **Mr. Acharya** (Observer for Nepal), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, recalled that the Istanbul Programme of Action had set the ambitious goal of enabling half of the world's least developed countries to meet their graduation criteria by 2020, which would require a fundamental structural transformation of their economies and their meaningful integration into the global economic system. While that process had progressed considerably since the adoption of the Programme of Action in May 2011, the least developed countries continued to face multiple challenges, including unemployment, insufficient productive capacities, inefficient infrastructures, a lack of reliable and affordable technologies, poverty and vulnerability to external shocks.

12. The ongoing impact of the global economic and financial crisis had manifested itself in those countries in the form of sharp declines in economic growth, increased poverty, growing joblessness and rising debt, all of which called for appropriate, timely and targeted global support to complement national efforts to build resilience and mitigate the effects of external shocks. The least developed countries required additional, predictable and adequate support for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including through the expeditious operationalization of the Green Climate Fund, and easy and equitable access to its resources. In addition, the least developed countries that were emerging from conflicts continued to be beset by instability, poor governance and economic stagnation. Additional and robust international support was needed within the framework of national leadership and ownership in order to bolster their institutional capacities and allow for post-conflict economic recovery, reconstruction of infrastructure and rehabilitation of displaced persons within the framework of national leadership and ownership.

13. The growing financing gap between rich and poor countries continued to be the main impediment to development efforts. The least developed countries were heavily dependent on international support in the

form of ODA, foreign direct investment (FDI), debt relief, concessional lending and other private financial flows. The 8.9 per cent decrease in ODA to those countries in 2011, as compared to a 3 per cent decrease in ODA to all developing countries, was cause for grave concern. The developed countries should fulfil their commitment to provide 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of GNI to the least developed countries, align their aid allocations with the recipients' priorities with a focus on building productive capacity and set progressive quantitative aid targets in order to ensure the adequacy and predictability of resource flows. He was grateful to the developed countries, including the European Union as a whole, that had met their ODA targets despite their own economic problems and he called on other countries to meet and surpass those targets in the future. In allocating ODA, the overall flow of resources to the least developed countries should be proportionate to their structural vulnerabilities and multiple challenges, and development partners should review and augment their commitments in 2015 in accordance with the Istanbul Programme of Action.

14. International trade was a key component of sustainable development and poverty reduction in the least developed countries. Priority implementation of commitments to enhanced market access, reduction of non-tariff barriers, Aid for Trade and recent WTO decisions must be ensured. An early conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations that was ambitious and equitable and included duty-free, quota-free market access, flexible rules of origin and special provisions on the service sector was essential. Debt sustainability was critical and the Bretton Woods institutions should renew the extension of the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. Because FDI was an important way for poor countries to bridge their growing investment gaps, it should be encouraged through incentives and development partners should support private-sector development in the least developed countries. Enhancing the voice and representation of those countries, including their recognition as a special category by international agencies and financial institutions, was essential in ensuring consistent, concerted global support and promoting equity and inclusiveness.

15. Priority should be given to establishing a technology bank and a science, technology and innovation support mechanism and to completing a

joint gap and capacity analysis. South-South and triangular cooperation should be broadened in all areas, including infrastructure development, technology transfer and capacity-building, as a complement to North-South cooperation.

16. The Council's 2015 annual ministerial review and the comprehensive mid-term review of the Istanbul Programme of Action would be important high-level occasions to review the progress made. It was therefore important to take early initiatives to complete the first biannual review by United Nations regional commissions by 2013.

17. As primary stakeholders, the least developed countries were committed to ensuring the early and full integration of the Programme of Action into their development policies and programmes. They acknowledged that their development was primarily their own responsibility; however, they could not meet their commitments in that regard without meaningful global support and their development partners, United Nations agencies and other multilateral organizations should fulfil their respective responsibilities within the framework of a renewed and strengthened global partnership.

18. **Mr. Wang Min** (China) said that China had always been a firm supporter of the least developed countries and a facilitator of their development within the South-South cooperation framework. In particular, it had contributed significantly to African development; in the next three years, it would expand its cooperation and investments in Africa.

19. Since 2001, the least developed countries had made considerable progress in their economic and social development, both through their own efforts and with the support of the international community. However, the fragility of their economic structures had remained fundamentally unchanged and they were facing even greater development challenges as a result of the global financial crisis. The international community should therefore increase its efforts to support those countries, taking their specific needs into account. The Istanbul Programme of Action, which had demonstrated the international community's commitment to the least developed countries and had identified priority areas and specific actions, must now be implemented.

20. The leadership of the least developed countries in their own development should be respected and the assistance provided should be consistent with their national development strategies and specific requests and concerns. The international community should strengthen its support on the basis of the priorities established in the Programme of Action, in particular by giving priority attention to productive capacity, trade, agriculture, primary products and other areas essential for restructuring and sustainable development, and should formulate policies to support the smooth transition of the graduated countries. ODA commitments to the least developed countries should be fulfilled in a timely manner and with recognition of their specific needs. The supervision and implementation mechanism of the Programme of Action should be continuously strengthened and the relevant international organizations should integrate it into their work on the basis of their division of labour and comparative advantages. Lastly, the functions and resources of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) should be further strengthened in order to ensure that it had the capacity to monitor and promote implementation of the Programme of Action.

21. **Mr. Khan** (Indonesia) said that while the least developed countries were the most vulnerable members of the international community, they had embarked upon important development efforts which had resulted in notable gains. Structural challenges nevertheless remained, while external shocks such as the financial, food and energy crises had so undercut their progress that many of them could not meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

22. The adoption of the Istanbul Programme of Action had signalled the renewed determination of the least developed countries to overcome their structural challenges and while they were best placed to understand their development requirements and to implement needed changes, donors, emerging economies, the private sector and civil society still had a role to play. Regional partnerships and South-South cooperation could address economic and social gaps among countries and foster stability, community-building and resilience, but they could not replace global partnerships and North-South cooperation. His Government would continue to offer support to the least developed countries through technical

cooperation among developing countries, the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) and the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation.

23. In order to better address specific vulnerabilities in preparation for graduation, a concrete proposal for ensuring an effective long-term smooth transition, including by setting up economic vulnerability and environmental and climate change vulnerability indexes, should be formulated. In addition, the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) could play a central role in putting targeted support measures in place.

24. **Ms. Chartres** (Australia) said that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the resulting Istanbul Programme of Action had refocused attention on the least developed countries at a time of great change characterized by financial upheaval, a shift in the centres of economic growth and an increasingly urgent environmental situation. It was critical that the world should not shift its attention away from the countries most in need of international assistance and support. The Programme of Action balanced human and social development with a new and essential imperative: to build viable and competitive productive capacities. Increased investment in employment and decent work, highlighted in the Council's high-level segment, as well as business development, microfinance, energy, agriculture, science and innovation, were essential for growth and development in the least developed countries. For too long, the international community had lagged behind in finding ways for them to benefit from a globalized economy.

25. The Conference had provided a reminder of the many vulnerabilities faced by most of the least developed countries and of the extent to which financial, climate and environmental crises, in conjunction with natural disasters and conflicts, threatened to deepen those vulnerabilities over the next decade. It was urgent that in setting development agenda beyond 2015, the international community should find ways to mitigate development setbacks in those countries.

26. Her Government was committed to fully implementing the Programme of Action; five least developed countries in the Asia-Pacific region were among its largest bilateral development partners and its

programmes in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Bangladesh were growing substantially. It was crucial that the international community should give priority to accelerating progress towards the MDGs, especially in the least developed countries, with a focus on poverty reduction and inclusive development beyond 2015.

27. **Mr. dos Santos** (Brazil) said that he welcomed the Secretary-General's report (E/2012/75-A/67/88) and was pleased to note that the least developed countries' growth performance had improved owing to productivity gains, increased investment in infrastructure and sound macroeconomic management. He was, however, concerned at the uneven progress in poverty alleviation, combating hunger, achieving gender equality and reducing maternal mortality, attributable to the ongoing global economic and financial crisis and the decline in ODA. Appropriate regional and international support should be deployed in a timely and targeted way in order to complement national efforts.

28. Agriculture remained the largest employer in many least developed countries, accounting for some 60 per cent of the labour force. His country therefore remained committed to providing them with duty-free, quota-free market access in accordance with the Sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, held in Hong Kong from 13 to 18 December 2005. He also welcomed initiatives such as the support programme on cotton cultivation in Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali and the initiatives of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation. Additional cooperation projects focused on the treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; Brazil's cooperation projects included the establishment of an anti-retroviral drug factory in Mozambique.

29. Every effort should be made to ensure that no country graduating from least-developed status suffered any disruption or reversal of its development process. His Government also looked forward to replicating with other countries its encouraging experience with Cape Verde; the ties and cooperation between the two countries had been further strengthened during, and especially after, Cape Verde's graduation from least-developed status. Such initiatives reflected a commitment to South-South cooperation as a complement to North-South cooperation. In that connection, his delegation had participated actively in the work of the ad hoc working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the

countries graduating from the least developed country category.

30. **Mr. Silberberg** (Germany) said that the key to overcoming poverty lay with the least developed countries themselves and that the chief prerequisites for sustainable development and inclusive growth were peace and security, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights. External assistance continued to be important for those countries, but only as a complement to their own efforts. He welcomed the growing development assistance role played by emerging economies and their willingness to take on increasing responsibilities within the global partnership for the world's poorest countries and people. His Government was a major contributor to trilateral cooperation and he encouraged Germany's least developed partners to take advantage of that support. Halving the number of least developed countries by 2020 required the participation of the private sector and civil society and he would be interested to know what measures had been taken to include them in development partnerships.

31. His Government was currently working directly with 30 of the 40 least developed countries through bilateral, regional and thematic country programmes. Over the past decade, Germany's contributions to those countries had doubled in absolute terms; it was the second-largest contributor to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for adaptation to climate change and would soon contribute 380,000 euros to the Fund in order to mainstream the Istanbul Programme of Action into national development plans and strategies for the period 2012 to 2014.

32. **Mr. Diarra** (Under-Secretary-General; High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States) said that the issues facing the least developed countries were now front and centre on the international agenda, and success in confronting them would benefit the entire world.

Draft resolution entitled "Programme of action for the least developed countries for the decade 2011-2020" (E/2012/L.12)

33. **Mr. Djacta** (Observer for Algeria), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Istanbul Programme of Action had as its aim the elimination of structural impediments to

development and poverty reduction in the least developed countries. Without ensuring full implementation of agreed commitments by all relevant stakeholders, that goal could not be realized. The least developed countries, development partners, the United Nations system and all other concerned actors should therefore fully integrate and effectively implement the Programme of Action in its priority areas in a coordinated and expeditious manner.

Coordination, programme and other questions

(continued)

(g) Tobacco or health

Draft resolution entitled “United Nations system-wide coherence on tobacco control” (E/2012/L.18)

34. *Draft resolution E/2012/L.18 was adopted.*

(e) Long-term programme of support for Haiti (E/2012/87)

Draft resolution entitled “Ad hoc Advisory Group on Haiti” (E/2012/L.16)

35. **Mr. Rishchynski** (Canada), speaking as Chair of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, introduced the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2012/87) and draft resolution E/2012/L.16 entitled “Ad hoc Advisory Group on Haiti” and said that Australia, the Bahamas, Benin, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Spain, the United States of America and Uruguay had become sponsors.

36. **Ms. Gauthier** (Observer for Haiti, Minister of Planning and External Cooperation) said that the situation in Haiti was continuously improving but still fragile and that there had been a shortage of international assistance with efforts to improve its governance. With help from civil society, her Government had taken steps in the areas of the environment, human development, the rule of law and FDI and had made education a top priority. Contrary to what was stated in paragraph 31 of the report, her Government could indeed document progress in that area; a dedicated monitoring mechanism and follow-up committee, which worked closely with the Ministry of Education, had been established.

37. The President and the Prime Minister were looking forward to initiating Government reform, and a budget forecasting plan had been prepared in

anticipation of future project needs. Efforts to decentralize decision-making in each of the country’s ten regions were under way and her Government was working with the private sector to increase tax revenue. Nevertheless, international support was needed if Haiti was to achieve sustainable development. The United Nations integrated strategic framework for Haiti for the period 2013-2016 was realistic and consistent with the Government’s plan to make Haiti an emerging country by 2030.

38. **Mr. Grand Pierre** (Observer for Haiti, Chef de Cabinet, Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation, Haiti), accompanying his presentation with a digital slide presentation, said that his Government’s new strategic development plan was based on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and was designed to improve the coordination of foreign aid; in the past, most externally-funded projects had not been implemented effectively. The new development plan aimed to boost per capita income and to ensure that Haiti could become an emerging country by 2030. The first phase of implementation, which involved territorial, social, economic and institutional reconstruction, was under way.

39. Haiti’s poverty reduction efforts, which, prior to the January 2010 earthquake, had focused on the basic needs identified at that time — education, health, water and sanitation — had had to be refocused in order to address new priorities: the economy and employment, energy, the environment and the rule of law. Following a post-disaster needs assessment, national, regional, subregional and local development hubs had been established in order to provide social services to people where they lived, including inland, rather than perpetuating the situation inherited from colonial times, when most of the population had been concentrated in coastal towns.

40. The Government was working to strengthen technical, vocational and higher education; Haiti was expected to be at the same level as other neighbouring countries by 2030 and should be ready to meet the demands of the global market. A new intersectoral coordination mechanism would include a strategic coordination committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Minister of Planning and External Cooperation and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who, with input from other relevant Ministers, would ensure that all the aid received was focused on Haiti’s development priorities. A joint partnership mechanism and platforms for

working with technical and financial partners, including a group of 12 donors and South-South cooperation partners, would be established and a ministerial ruling would soon legalize that framework. Substantial efforts would be required within the new cooperation framework and since Haiti would continue to depend on international aid, support must be coordinated in line with national priorities.

41. **Mr. Fisher** (Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti; Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, Haiti), speaking by video link, said that the many positive developments in Haiti since the visit of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group in May 2012 included plans to publish revised constitutional amendments that would consolidate democratic institutions through electoral reform and facilitate the holding of elections by the end of the year; the Government had already earmarked about a third of the financing required for that purpose. Another positive development had been the gradual progress in strengthening the Haitian National Police, including through the provision of training. Nevertheless, recruitment of police must be stepped up in order to reach the goal of having 15,000 trained officers by 2016 and reducing the number of United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) troops. Discussions on the creation of a second security force that would focus on, *inter alia*, civil defence, environmental protection and border security were continuing.

42. While political uncertainties had slowed external aid flows, development prospects, including in the tourism and agriculture sectors, were improving under the new Government. There were ongoing community revival initiatives, and housing repairs and rental subsidies had reduced the population in the displaced persons camps by 30,000 between April and June 2012. Investment in primary schools was boosting enrolment but greater efforts were needed; in particular, students should be provided with daily lunches. A family allowance scheme was intended to stimulate the attendance of students from the poorest households, especially those headed by women. Haiti's new national aid coordination architecture had been endorsed and ratified by the Government, which now required support from the international community in order to implement it. In addition, the Government and

its partners were trying to resolve disbursement and programme implementation bottlenecks.

43. Reinforcing Haitian institutions was the main strategy for strengthening the country's security and development situation and MINUSTAH was engaged in discussions on the issues of coordinated action and joint resource mobilization. In order to face the challenges that lay ahead, Haiti must tap into its own resources and make financial and human investments in order to drive equitable growth and development for its people, and its international partners must remain committed to helping the country to shape its destiny.

44. **Ms. Bethel** (Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community, said that the positioning of Haiti as a democratic, stable and economically viable country continued to be a matter of utmost importance. The States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) were heartened by the progress made in the two years since the devastating earthquake; however, sustained support was needed in order to reinforce those gains. CARICOM had recently signed a memorandum of understanding with its member State, Haiti, which covered such areas as capacity-building for investment; technical assistance in the areas of education, agriculture and public health; and youth exchange initiatives and which allowed some Haitian goods to enter other CARICOM countries duty-free for three years. The communiqué issued at the thirty-third regular meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Gros Islet from 4 to 6 July 2012, reaffirmed the importance of respect for the sovereignty of Haiti and supported the position that all international funding should be redirected to, and managed by, the Government of Haiti. A Haiti-CARICOM Working Group also been established at that meeting and tasked with developing a plan of action for implementation and funding of the aforementioned memorandum of understanding.

45. The CARICOM States had undertaken a number of initiatives to provide a sustainable economic future for the Haitian people by enabling the country to function within the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality was helping to strengthen Haiti's institutional capacity; the region also had technical expertise to share in the areas of agriculture, management and community development and, in turn, could benefit from Haiti's rich artistic and cultural heritage. CARICOM supported the Ad Hoc Advisory

Group's call for donors to provide support to the Parliament to help it perform its budgetary, legislative, oversight and other tasks adequately, including as these relate to aid effectiveness in Haiti (E/2012/87, para. 60 (g)). It also agreed that there was a need to provide institutional, financial and other administrative support to the judiciary in order to strengthen the rule of law.

46. It was deeply regrettable that as the 2012 hurricane season approached, such a large share of the pledges made at the 2010 International Donor's Conference on Haiti remained outstanding, hindering the global capacity to respond to Haiti's humanitarian needs and the State's own capacity to take control of the recovery response and thus necessitating a continued international presence. Those pledges must be honoured. MINUSTAH played an important role in maintaining peace and security in Haiti and laying the foundation for its long-term recovery and stability, but those efforts must be accompanied by the support and cooperation of the remainder of the United Nations system. Only through coordinated action within the United Nations system, by regional actors, and by the international donor community, based on the priorities of the Haitian Government, could lasting success be achieved.

47. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), recalling that his country had been a member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group since 2004, said that tackling the challenges that Haiti still faced required the strengthening of national institutions with support from the international community. Full achievement of the rule of law was crucial to human rights and sustainable development; parliamentary ratification of the new Government, the appointment of a President of the Supreme Court and the publication of amendments to the Constitution were encouraging and efforts to reform the remaining areas must be pursued. In that respect, the upcoming municipal and legislative elections would require interaction among the three branches of Government.

48. Haitian national capacity must be bolstered and the United Nations integrated strategic framework for Haiti for the period 2013-2016 was an important step forward. Cooperation at the bilateral level and through the United Nations system must be aligned with the Government's priorities, particularly in light of the decline in aid from the country's primary donors. An enhanced private sector would help to foster job and

infrastructure creation and improve the quality of life of Haiti's people.

49. The work of MINUSTAH had been vital to improving security and fostering development in Haiti. Any change in the Mission's composition or size must be offset by strengthening the development component of the United Nations agencies in Haiti. Training for the police remained urgent and his Government would continue to contribute to those efforts. Cooperation with institutional capacity-building must be ongoing and based on the principle of national ownership so as to gradually enhance the local community's involvement in national reconstruction efforts.

50. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that Governments, local authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should work together on the basis of Haiti's strategic development plan in order to avoid duplication of effort and make efficient use of the financial and other resources being channelled to the country. The Government should continue to work on its priority tasks and should facilitate coordination with all stakeholders involved in cooperation activities. Mexico had established a medium- and long-term cooperation strategy for Haiti's development, which focused on key sectors and ensured compatibility with the initiatives of the Government of Haiti and those of donors. In triangular cooperation with Spain and Japan, it had financed projects relating to health, education, agriculture, civil defence, governance and elections. The Mexico for Haiti Alliance, an innovative public-private cooperation initiative, had financed, inter alia, the building of three schools and a clinic. During an April 2012 visit to Haiti, the President of Mexico had undertaken to step up cooperation between the two countries and his delegation had requested membership in the Ad Hoc Advisory Group.

51. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador) said that his delegation endorsed the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group but suggested that other United Nations bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Commission, should be involved in the reconstruction of Haiti. He welcomed the adoption of draft resolution E/2012/L.16, in which the Council had decided to extend the Group's mandate for an additional year, and the efforts of the international community through MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team to align international aid with the Government's priorities based on the principle of national ownership. He was convinced that the Council and the international

community had the political will to support the Government's efforts to address the challenges that the country faced.

52. **Mr. dos Santos** (Brazil) said that the Government had shown leadership in preparing its new strategic plan for development, which set out clear priorities and a new architecture for the coordination of international cooperation. The strengthening of national institutions must be accompanied by reinforcement of the rule of law; the recent appointments to the judiciary and publication of constitutional amendments were a step in that direction, as would be the holding of elections in an improved institutional environment. He encouraged the Government to take advantage of the stabilization dividend achieved through cooperation with MINUSTAH to make further progress in those areas. In that connection, it was urgent to strengthen, equip and support the Haitian national police so that the State could fulfil its responsibilities for the nation's security and stability, with full respect for human rights, as a critical step in making Haiti an emerging country by 2030.

53. The Government's efforts to eradicate extreme poverty were encouraging, as was the participation of women in that process; policies that focused on education, health care, management, productive investment and job creation could lift people out of extreme poverty and ensure their economic empowerment. Infrastructure projects, especially in the areas of agriculture, health and energy, were also valuable as they generated jobs and set the conditions for sustainable development. Brazil continued to lead bilateral efforts in areas such as public health, food security and professional training and had contributed \$40 million to a plurilateral hydroelectric plant project that would provide renewable energy while creating jobs; additional partners in that endeavour, which had been established as a priority by the Government, were being sought.

54. **Ms. Cousens** (United States of America) said that, since 2010, her Government had committed \$1.3 billion in humanitarian relief to Haiti and that a high-level bilateral meeting was being held that day in order to discuss a broad range of cooperation initiatives. In the context of the new strategic plan for Haiti's development and in consultation with the Haitian authorities, her Government had focused its cooperation on infrastructure, agriculture, health, governance and the rule of law. It was also involved in a partnership for the construction of an industrial park

that would employ 20,000 people over the next five years and was taking a holistic value-chain approach to helping Haitian farmers. Humanitarian needs persisted and the long-term solution was poverty reduction and employment, driven by national and international investment. She welcomed the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group, MINUSTAH and the countries that were contributing in the area of law enforcement.

55. **Mr. Neelam** (Australia) said that his Government welcomed the progress that the national authorities had made towards Haiti's reconstruction but recognized that further efforts were required. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group had an important role to play in sustaining the international focus on Haiti and supporting national efforts in the areas identified in the strategic plan. The Group's efforts to improve international coordination were commendable and must be stepped up in support of Government capacity-building initiatives. As Haiti remained vulnerable to a new humanitarian crisis, the international community must continue to support its development and build on the gains already made.

56. **Mr. Fermín** (Dominican Republic) said that his Government had supported the reconstruction efforts of its neighbour, Haiti, both bilaterally and through the United Nations system; for example, Roi Henri Christophe University, in the north of the country, had been inaugurated with support from the Dominican Republic. The problems facing Haiti could not be solved without international assistance but the responsibility for reconstruction lay with the Haitian people themselves, in cooperation with the United Nations and other partners. His delegation supported the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group and welcomed the adoption of the resolution extending the Group's mandate.

57. **Ms. Jerger** (World Food Programme) thanked the Ad Hoc Advisory Group for raising awareness of the need to help Haitian people through the use of social safety nets, including the provision of school meals and efforts to ensure disaster preparedness and response and to help with capacity-building and small farming initiatives. The World Food Programme (WFP) was pleased to continue its strong partnerships in Haiti under the leadership of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.