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## Second Committee

### Summary record of the 25th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 8 November 2012, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Mero (Vice-Chair) . . . . . (United Republic of Tanzania)

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*In the absence of Mr. Talbot (Guyana), Mr. Mero (United Republic of Tanzania) took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**Agenda item 20: Sustainable development** *(continued)*

- (a) **Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** *(continued)* (A/67/206, A/67/348 and A/CONF.216/16)
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- (h) **Harmony with Nature** *(continued)* (A/67/317)
- (i) **Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy** *(continued)* (A/67/175, A/67/314 and A/67/318)

1. **Ms. Davison** (United Kingdom) said that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (the Rio+20 Conference) had, inter alia, renewed political commitment in that area and furthered discussions on the green economy. She noted that, with a view to complementing the emphasis that was often placed on gross domestic product (GDP)

when assessing progress, it had been agreed that broader measures should be developed to take into account natural assets that could foster prosperity. She also welcomed calls for businesses to report on sustainability, as that could promote transparency and accountability. A truly successful outcome to the Rio+20 Conference would be achieved through its follow-up activities, for which the international community must shoulder responsibility. In that connection, the United Kingdom, like other countries, hoped that the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals would soon be established.

2. Moreover, with a view to implementing the Rio+20 agreements, the upgrading of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) would enable it to promote environmental issues more authoritatively within the Organization. She welcomed the outcome of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular the decisions on the Strategy for Resource Mobilization and on ensuring that at least 75 per cent of the Parties to that Convention included biodiversity in their national priorities by 2015. The international community must endeavour to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Pursuant to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, illicit wildlife trafficking was recognized as an offence, and all countries were urged to ensure that the Convention was upheld. In that connection, her delegation was particularly concerned that rhinoceroses continued to be poached for their horns. To promote sustainable development, it was essential to address climate change, and progress must be achieved at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change so that the world would achieve its goal of limiting global temperature increases to less than 2 degrees Celsius.

3. **Mr. Rodriguez** (Cuba) said that the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference had been a disappointment compared to the results of previous summit meetings. The adopted text reflected the unjust international system imposed by the developed countries. Moreover, the sections on developed countries' responsibilities, including financial responsibilities with regard to sustainable development, used weak, ambiguous language. The developed nations had refused to make firm commitments to transfer financial resources to

developing nations. South-South cooperation had been given too much weight relative to North-South cooperation.

4. The establishment of a high-level political forum strengthened the institutional framework for sustainable development. The forum must be responsible for the effective follow-up of Agenda 21: Programme of Action for Sustainable Development (Agenda 21), the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Rio+20 outcome, as well as ensuring that the developed countries provided financial and technological resources.

5. The sustainable development goals must be formulated through a broad, transparent and intergovernmental process. In order to achieve those goals, poverty and social inequality must be addressed. Achieving sustainable development required a fairer distribution of resources and wealth, based on a genuine and profound sense of global solidarity with the most vulnerable.

6. **Mr. Briens** (France) said that many stakeholders believed that global governance was fragmented and incapable of addressing key environmental challenges. To enhance global oversight, a new United Nations body on the environment, headquartered in Africa, should be established. France welcomed efforts to enhance the role of UNEP, together with the establishment of a high-level political forum to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development, which should be convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

7. Rising inequality, the limited potential of existing growth strategies, and environmental degradation threatened to undermine efforts to eradicate poverty. The environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainable development were interdependent and indivisible, and must be addressed simultaneously. A single, coherent, and consensus-based post-2015 agenda that addressed national concerns was required. That agenda must incorporate input from civil society and relevant experts, but also required high-level political support. France had therefore nominated its Minister for Development as a candidate for the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

8. At the Rio+20 Conference, it had been acknowledged that evaluations of socioeconomic progress must not be based exclusively on GDP growth rates, but also on other, broader indicators. The

Statistical Commission had been tasked with elaborating a work programme to achieve that goal, and France believed that the recommendations of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress could provide useful input to that process. It was essential that a broader understanding of progress was incorporated into the post-2015 agenda.

9. The world must establish a “blue economy” that would provide for development and poverty reduction in coastal States. In that connection, negotiations on the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea must begin at the earliest opportunity, with a view to conserving and sustainably exploiting resources in marine areas beyond national jurisdictions. Steps must also be taken to strengthen corporate responsibility.

10. His delegation was pleased that the Rio+20 outcome document reaffirmed the role of civil society as an essential partner in promoting sustainable development; it also welcomed the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and urged States to implement it promptly. Energy was a key consideration in efforts to promote sustainable development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). France worked closely with the International Renewable Energy Agency, and, with a view to combating poverty and climate change, promoting sustainable economic development and safeguarding global public goods, sought to strengthen political support for renewable energy initiatives.

11. **Ms. Richards** (Jamaica) said that her country welcomed the fact that, at the Rio+20 Conference, the international community had reaffirmed its commitments to small island developing States, as embodied in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. Jamaica supported efforts to designate 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States, and appreciated the offer by the Government of Samoa to host the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

12. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was an indispensable instrument for promoting the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans, the equitable and efficient use of their living resources and the study, protection and conservation of the marine environment.

Jamaica looked forward to the continued support of the international community to countries of the wider Caribbean region to help them protect, sustainably manage and preserve the Caribbean Sea.

13. As an island nation, Jamaica was particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and extreme weather events, which could cause significant damage to livelihoods, infrastructure and the economy and impede long term development, including the achievement of the MDGs. States must take action to promote climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable housing and urbanization. Jamaica would continue to support efforts to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action and to develop a framework on disaster risk reduction that was in line with broader efforts to elaborate a post-2015 United Nations development framework. In that regard, the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would help to ensure that the international community made progress towards its goal of limiting global temperature increases to 2 degrees Celsius.

14. Action must be taken to encourage rational and sustainable use of natural resources; to that end, Jamaica had signed the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States. Jamaica called for the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to be established at the earliest opportunity and for it to include several small island developing States so that it took their particular concerns into account. The Goals formulated by that Group must be universal encompassing a realistic set of targets and indicators to encourage the widespread adoption of more sustainable policies and programmes.

15. The aspirations that had underpinned Agenda 21, as reaffirmed at the Rio+20 Conference, remained as relevant as they were when the Agenda was adopted in 1992. However, those aspirations could not be realized unless the international community strengthened its collaboration with a view to promoting environmental protection and sustainable socioeconomic development.

16. **Mr. Rivard** (Canada) said that participants at the Rio+20 Conference had acknowledged that, in efforts to enhance global sustainability, the “no one size fits all” principle should be upheld, and that closer international collaboration was needed if the

international community wished to achieve its collective goals. Canada would continue to support efforts to improve coherence and coordination, while enhancing stakeholders’ capacity to address all three pillars of sustainable development. It would also continue to encourage progress evaluation, the sharing of information and best practices and the active engagement of all stakeholders, including the private sector. Canada welcomed the decision to establish a high-level political forum to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development, and believed that that forum could provide much-needed political leadership and guidance to the United Nations on key sustainable development issues.

17. Efforts must be made to strengthen international environmental governance. In that connection, Canada welcomed the upgrading of UNEP, including, inter alia, the establishment of universal membership in its Governing Council. That would enhance the scope of the Programme and foster a sense of global ownership. The Programme should be empowered so that it could provide leadership within the Organization on international environmental issues and facilitate coherence among existing instruments and institutions.

18. His delegation supported the efforts of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons that had been established to advise the Secretary-General on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. Close coordination must take place between that Panel and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which Canada had expressed an interest in joining, to ensure that a single coherent set of post-2015 goals was formulated. Canada believed that input from relevant stakeholders, including the scientific community, should guide the intergovernmental process to formulate those goals, and looked forward to contributing to discussions on how those goals should address the three dimensions of sustainable development.

19. **Mr. Alfares** (Kuwait) said that the developing and least developed countries were facing a number of economic and development challenges as a result of climate change and successive global crises. To address those challenges, the world must foster effective partnerships to make the process of global decision-making more democratic and transparent, while encouraging North-South dialogue and cooperation.

20. Adequate financing for development must be made available and donor countries must honour their commitments to earmark 0.7 per cent of GNP for official development assistance (ODA), in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. In that connection, Kuwait provided 1.04% of its GNP, almost double the recommended percentage, as ODA to developing and least developed countries. Through its Fund for Arab Economic Development, Kuwait had provided almost \$18 billion to more than 100 countries to help them achieve their sustainable development goals. Kuwait also contributed to other international and regional institutions and funds, including the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Fund for International Development and the African Development Bank. Furthermore, in 2012, Kuwait had hosted the First Asian Cooperation Dialogue Summit, which had established a \$2 billion fund, to which Kuwait was contributed \$300 million, with a view to financing development projects in non-Arab Asian countries and fostering regional integration. Kuwait also intended to spend \$100 billion to promote national development and economic diversification, and was endeavouring to cut greenhouse gas emissions with a view to safeguarding the environment.

21. Although climate change was affecting all countries, its effects on developing countries were particularly severe; it curbed their ability to achieve sustainable development and the MDGs, and threatened the very existence of certain small island States. Kuwait therefore urged the international community to devise national strategies to combat climate change on the basis of the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference. Countries should strive to improve energy efficiency, diversify energy resources, promote the sharing of low-emission technologies and encourage the use of alternative energy.

22. **Ms. Dong** (China) said that translating the political consensus that had been reached at the Rio+20 Conference into specific policies that all parties could accept would be an arduous and challenging process. In the light of the ongoing financial crisis, compounded by climate change, food insecurity and other challenges, the international community must redouble its efforts to promote global sustainable development. Developing countries should formulate and implement sustainable development strategies in the light of their own national circumstances, but must give priority to poverty eradication. Developed countries should

modify unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and should help developing countries strengthen their capacities to achieve their sustainable development objectives.

23. The world also needed to carefully consider the progress that had been achieved on the MDGs with a view to formulating balanced and realistic sustainable development goals. China believed that those goals should complement and build on the successes of the MDGs, assigning priority to poverty eradication and seeking to balance economic, social and environmental considerations. Those goals should, moreover, be aligned with the Rio Principles, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, which should continue to guide international cooperation, including within key multilateral processes such as United Nations negotiations on ways to address climate change. However, the Rio Principles should not limit the policy space that was available to individual countries.

24. Steps needed to be taken to strengthen institutional frameworks and mechanisms to promote sustainable development. In that regard, China called for the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be convened at the earliest opportunity. That forum should build on the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, seek to achieve broad political participation, address the needs of individual Member States and foster synergy within the United Nations system while avoiding functional overlap with the Economic and Social Council. Discussions should also begin on a sustainable development financing strategy and on mechanisms to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

25. China supported efforts to strengthen UNEP and to fully implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. In the light of the upcoming Conference on Climate Change, developed countries were urged to exert additional efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions so as to ensure that the second quantified emission limitation and reduction commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol would begin on schedule. China also hoped that developed countries would honour their financing and technology transfer commitments and that negotiations on the Bali Road Map would soon be concluded.

26. China was working to establish an equitable cooperation mechanism to address climate change that fully embodied the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. It was an active South-South cooperation partner and had striven to enhance North-South cooperation and institutional mechanisms to promote environmental protection, climate change adaptation and access to energy. As part of its twelfth five-year plan, China would strive to promote sustainable development by such means as encouraging lifestyles and patterns of production and consumption that were resource-efficient and environmentally sound. The country also intended to more fully engage in global governance mechanisms and to gradually increase the assistance it provided to other developing countries to encourage sustainable development

27. **Mr. Samadou** (Niger) said that access to energy was a key consideration for the Niger, a least developed country, in its efforts to promote development. It was therefore striving to establish partnerships with a view to increasing its energy production. In the light of the growing awareness among States of the importance of promoting the use of alternative energy sources, his delegation believed that progress on renewable energy generation, including solar energy production, could be achieved. In that connection, the Niger's solar energy centre, which had been established in the 1970s, urgently required additional resources.

28. The Sahara desert covered two thirds of the country, and agricultural areas in the south were increasingly threatened by desertification. Environmental degradation was leading to growing food insecurity. His Government was striving to address those challenges and was closely following the implementation of the outcomes of, inter alia, the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Desertification and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. In particular, his delegation believed that the High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy, which would be held in 2013, must adopt specific measures to address water scarcity. The effective implementation of the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, entitled "The future we want", could help promote the harmonious development of all nations and reinforce peace and security. The Niger was striving to meet the MDGs as a key step towards its objective of achieving sustainable development and

establishing a green economy; in that context, it hoped that the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals would uphold the principles of equity, solidarity and transparency.

29. **Mr. Tham** (Singapore) said that his country disagreed with those who claimed that the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference had not gone far enough in committing the world to sustainable development. Given that it was better to formulate a realistic vision rather than an unattainable aspiration, "The future we want" was a balanced document that reflected current political, economic and social realities. The international community must endeavour to implement the commitments made at the Rio+20 Conference; it must formulate a set of sustainable development goals and an effective sustainable development financing strategy, while establishing a high-level political forum to follow up on actions to promote sustainable development.

30. Although tight deadlines had been set for the achievement of certain commitments, disagreements between Member States, including over which countries should enjoy membership of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, meant that limited progress had been made in certain areas. Singapore urged the international community to strive to resolve all outstanding issues at the earliest opportunity. Furthermore, unless Member States demonstrated that the United Nations was achieving tangible progress in implementing the commitments made at the Rio+20 Conference, "The future we want" would be derided as merely another ineffective document.

31. **Mr. Och** (Mongolia) said that the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference had set forth a road map for addressing the particular needs of vulnerable countries, including landlocked developing countries. Mongolia had formulated a national sustainable development strategy that provided for domestic sustainable development institutions, a set of key sustainable development indicators and a sustainable education system. Mongolia was seeking to harmonize the sustainable consumption of natural resources with socioeconomic development and had given priority attention to integrating environmental sustainability into development plans and policies. The country had also adopted legislation on ecosystem services and required environmental impact studies to be carried out with a view to ensuring that initiatives to

promote economic growth were environmentally sustainable.

32. Countries must work closely together to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change, such as the severe drought and desertification suffered by Mongolia. To that end, his delegation supported the establishment of an intergovernmental scientific panel on desertification, land degradation and drought to promote research in that area and to identify actions that should be implemented by affected countries. Domestically, Mongolia was carrying out reforestation initiatives and had adopted measures to protect 15 per cent of the country.

33. In addition to its efforts to mobilize domestic resources, Mongolia was striving to attract foreign direct investment, adopt environmentally friendly technologies and establish effective partnerships with development partners with a view to building sustainable homes and improving air quality. Furthermore, in order to foster closer cooperation between Asian and European countries on water issues, Mongolia had hosted the fourth environment ministers' meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in 2012, which had focused on sustainable water and forest management.

34. **Ms. Picco** (Monaco) said that, in line with its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and the UNEP Carbon Neutral Network, Monaco had adopted an Energy Climate Plan with a view to combating climate change and securing the country's energy requirements. That Plan sought to reduce energy demands, encourage renewable energy production and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Monaco generated energy from seawater pumps and from reprocessing waste; moreover, in collaboration with industrial and institutional partners, it was studying ways in which other coastal towns could benefit from Monaco's environmentally friendly seawater pump technology. Monaco provided subsidies to encourage the installation of solar energy systems and intended to make use of tariffs to encourage consumers to purchase solar energy. Monaco was also striving to enhance the energy efficiency of buildings and was designing a plant that would use solar energy to produce drinking water from seawater.

35. In its efforts to promote sustainable development and eliminate poverty, Monaco sought to focus on microfinance for women, health, education, the

prevention of natural disasters and environmental protection. Monaco was committed to working with the scientific community to find ways to protect marine environments, and it called upon the international community to afford particular attention to the protection of those environments, in line with the Rio Declaration.

36. **Ms. Leshkova** (Belarus) said that protecting the environment for future generations and achieving the Millennium Development Goals called for greater consensus and cooperation on the part of the international community. In that regard, the Secretary-General's report, entitled "Options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies" (A/67/348), offered a number of practical recommendations on ways to accelerate scientific and technical exchanges towards that end.

37. Her country fully supported the Secretary-General's call for a global cooperation mechanism for technological development, and it believed that the first practical steps taken by the international community to develop and disseminate sustainable technologies in various sectors, especially energy, would provide a powerful political stimulus to achieving internationally agreed development goals. Any scientific and technical cooperation under the aegis of the United Nations should include the widest possible roster of countries in the research and development phase, and developing and middle-income countries should warrant special consideration in all decisions affecting the global transition to a green economy.

38. The report reflected the spirit and letter of the political agreements reached at the Rio+20 Conference, whose most important outcome from his country's perspective was the proposal to substantially increase assistance to middle-income countries. It was vitally important during the current phase that the implementation of the decisions reached at Rio should not be delayed.

39. With the international community beginning to debate the post-2015 development agenda, one of the most important aspects should be cooperation in developing the energy sector, with an emphasis on diversification and a long-term perspective in the light of climate change. As highlighted in the Secretary-General's report on the promotion of new and

renewable sources of energy (A/67/318), there had been notable progress in developing ties between Governments, business and international organizations with respect to discussions of renewable energy. The Secretary-General's initiative entitled "Renewable energy for all" was especially to be commended.

40. A great deal of work remained, however, most notably because the adoption of renewable energy by industry had been uneven. It was cause for concern that the majority of the growth in the renewable energy sector had taken place in developed countries, as well as in a small number of developing countries with mature economies. The growth rate in terms of adopting and commercializing renewable sources of energy remained low in middle-income and poor countries, and overcoming those imbalances should be an essential precondition to creating ecologically sound economies.

41. Key to addressing the challenges raised by the need to develop renewable energy should be the implementation of agreements reached at Rio+20, in tandem with enhanced regional and interregional cooperation. In addition, his country would continue to participate fully in all multilateral efforts to protect the global climate, and it fully supported a more vigorous international regime to mitigate climate change, especially by middle-income countries.

42. **Mr. Jiménez** (Nicaragua) said that irresponsible production and consumption models had led to the current crises. Given that 40 per cent of the Earth's non-renewable resources had already been used up, the current, unchecked development model urgently needed replacing. A shared vision of a sustainable way of life was needed. Sustainable development meant guaranteed food sovereignty and security; universal, guaranteed access to water, education and health care; peace; sustainable forest management; and harmony with nature.

43. Nicaragua was improving access to health care and education, while expanding production infrastructure and services. Its use of renewable energy sources was expected to rise from 25 per cent, its 2007 level, to 94 per cent in 2017. Plans for an interoceanic canal through Nicaragua had been approved. Progress was threatened, however, by climate change, which particularly affected Central America. Developed nations must meet their environmental commitments;

natural resources must not be privatized for minority benefit.

44. There was a risk, which must be mitigated, that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) would not be met by 2015. Developed nations should fulfil their commitment to allocating 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) to official development assistance (ODA). The sustainable development objectives should be established without delay, and should be based on the principles of complementarity, recognition of developmental asymmetries between and within countries, shared but differentiated responsibilities and solidarity, in addition to the principles recommended by the Secretary-General.

45. Preservation of biodiversity was a global challenge on a footing with climate change. The Rio+20 outcome should not remain merely a document; it must be put into practice.

46. **Mr. Oguntuyi** (Nigeria) said that for development to be sustainable it must be mainstreamed at all levels of society, and the links between its economic, social and environmental aspects must be taken into consideration. His delegation called upon all States to ensure full implementation of the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, and commended steps to strengthen UNEP with a view to making it more representative and accountable to Member States. Additional financial resources for the Programme should be provided from both the regular United Nations budget and voluntary contributions.

47. Climate change constituted a real and existential challenge for States, some of which were threatened by deforestation, desertification, rising sea levels or even submersion. Climate change had, moreover, undermined many countries' efforts to achieve food security, create jobs, promote development and achieve environmental sustainability. To effectively promote climate resilience, all stakeholders, including Governments, major financial institutions, private sector entities and civil society, must be actively engaged. Nigeria hoped that a legally-binding agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions would be concluded by 2015, and called on policy makers to formulate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures for affected countries that were realistic and achievable. In that connection, more streamlined funding mechanisms were required for the



provision of aid to countries that were most in need of immediate assistance.

48. Energy use had a far-reaching impact on manufacturing, food and water security, telecommunications, transportation and other areas that were closely linked with economic development. For many developing countries, inadequate access to clean, affordable and reliable energy constituted a major impediment to their achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. Nigeria commended the global Sustainable Energy for All initiative and, in line with its obligations under the African Strategy on Emission Reduction, had elaborated a national Renewable Energy Master Plan with a view to addressing the challenges associated with establishing clean, reliable, secure, and competitive energy supplies.

49. The effect of droughts and desertification threatened the livelihoods of some of the poorest and most vulnerable populations in Africa. Among other things, Nigeria was seeking to combat desertification within the framework of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative, which aimed to halt the encroachment of the Sahara desert in the northern part of the country. The international community was urged to support national, regional and global efforts to monitor land degradation and mitigate the effects of desertification. In that connection, Nigeria looked forward to the second Scientific Conference of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

50. Every country must be allowed the freedom to choose development strategies that were best adapted to its needs and national circumstances. Such strategies must be broad-based and inclusive, and foster social protection and productive employment. National initiatives to that end should be complemented by international efforts to promote regional, subregional and interregional cooperation and the involvement of the private sector and civil society.

51. **Mr. Souissi** (Morocco) said that the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 should establish simple, measurable objectives that reinforced the sustainable development goals and the MDGs. It should privilege sustainable growth and provide for improvements in the areas of public health, education, child mortality, migration, and disaster reduction. Collective action and increased linkages between rich and poor countries were needed to establish the

agenda. It must emerge from a democratic consensus between Governments, the private sector and civil society.

52. The eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (Doha Climate Change Conference) should see the developed nations agree a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Industrialized nations should commit to halving greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Conference should also provide for the operationalization of climate funds.

53. Disaster reduction should be an integral part of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. The 2015 international conference on disaster reduction should lead to the adoption of a new international disaster reduction framework. The 2014 international conference on small island developing States would provide a further opportunity for the international community to renew its sustainable development commitments.

54. Sustainable development was underpinned by two ideas – that it would be illogical to perpetuate growth that destroyed the natural resources on which future economic activity depended, and that the benefits of growth must be fairly distributed.

55. **Ms. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) said that cooperation, specifically the provision of financial resources and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, was essential.

56. Climate change was costing the global economy \$1.2 trillion annually. Jordan was notably affected, owing to its semi-arid climate and dependence on rain. Clean, renewable energy was key to sustainable development, and Jordan looked forward to a meaningful outcome of the Doha Climate Change Conference. In order to minimize the impacts of climate-change-related natural disasters, the Hyogo Framework for Action should be strengthened, as should plans for preparedness, rapid response, recovery and development.

57. Biodiversity was a key aspect of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. Given its location and its climatological and geological

formations, Jordan supported an unusually wide range of natural habitats and species. It was establishing a network of protected areas and improving wildlife monitoring and assessments.

58. A more inclusive, integrated approach to poverty eradication and the three dimensions of sustainable development would stimulate global growth that would benefit all.

59. **Mr. Thornberry** (Peru) said that his delegation was pleased with the adoption of a 10-year plan for sustainable production and consumption, and he called for its implementation during the current session of the General Assembly. Developed countries should lead the way, and the private sector had an important role to play. The failure to implement the commitments and obligations undertaken in the Convention on Biological Diversity was a matter of serious concern. Illegal accessing and exploitation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge was increasing, making it necessary for mega-diverse countries such as Peru to divert financial reserves to protect their resources.

60. The commitments and policies agreed at Rio+20 should be integrated into a workable mandate, which must not subsequently be reinterpreted. The effort to define a set of sustainable development goals was one of the most important outcomes of Rio+20, and States should approach the process of establishing them with the utmost openness and receptiveness. Peru proposed that they might be constructed around a set of focuses such as energy, water, biodiversity, forests, food security and oceans.

61. The United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 should incorporate the MDGs and the sustainable development goals, and should provide an integrated, coherent and effective programme for the achievement of sustainable development.

62. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that the global development agenda should be reinvigorated and should promote inclusive and sustainable growth, attack poverty and develop policies and disseminate technologies to increase equality of opportunity and empower citizens, particularly women and youth.

63. Her delegation was impressed with the "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative, which had rapidly attracted dozens of countries, mobilized billions of dollars and spurred commitment to action from a variety of sectors. It could potentially serve as a

model for solving future sustainable development challenges. The United States supported international efforts to conserve marine and coastal environments and to realize their social, economic and environmental benefits. Her delegation looked forward to participating in the creation of an action-oriented agenda for the 2014 international conference on small island developing States. The United Nations Environment Programme should be strengthened, and the environmental dimension of sustainable development should be emphasized.

64. While swiftness was important in following up the Rio+20 Conference, some thoughtful sequencing of effort would be valuable. The Secretary-General had reported on options for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean, environmentally sound technology barely two months after the Conference, when there had been little scope for consultation. Sustainable development had grown exponentially as a Second Committee agenda item; it was necessary to streamline the agenda and balance perennial issues with new ones.

65. **Mr. Emvula** (Namibia) said that Namibia had been the first African country to provide for protection of the environment in its Constitution. A series of environmental laws formed the basis for incorporating sustainability into national development plans and policies, and, moreover, Constitution compelled the Government to provide measures against the dumping of foreign nuclear or toxic waste on Namibian territory.

66. In 2011, a national report on renewable energy technologies had been published, focusing on how to move to a greener economy. As a global problem, climate change needed to be addressed multilaterally; he stressed the importance of the Doha Climate Change Conference in that regard. Africa was the most vulnerable continent to climate change, and should therefore play an active role in negotiations.

67. Namibia was one of the countries worst affected by desertification, drought and land degradation. His delegation was pleased that the Rio+20 outcome included a commitment to restore degraded lands: land restoration should be defined as one of the sustainable development goals. Namibia had had some success combating desertification over the past decade and called for support in the continuance of its efforts.

68. Namibia actively supported the Convention on Biological Diversity and was ratifying a national law

on access and benefit sharing to allow its citizens to benefit from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It was proud to have received the 2012 Markhor Award for outstanding conservation. Forty-four per cent of its land was under conservation management and local communities played a significant role in sustainable biodiversity management.

69. **Mr. Kasymov** (Kyrgyzstan) said that climate change represented a particular threat to vulnerable developing countries such as his own. With no outlet to the sea and 90 per cent of its territory occupied by mountains, it was extremely concerned by the rapid melting of glaciers, which were the principal source of fresh water for much of the region. It was essential that monitoring of glaciers and mountain water reservoirs should be stepped up in order to obtain a true measure of the situation.

70. Countries which bore a historic responsibility for climate change should now take on a greater role in confronting its effects by curtailing atmospheric emissions, as well as providing developing countries with financial and technical assistance to mitigate its consequences. His Government welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Green Climate Fund and called for its operationalization as quickly as possible.

71. Water was of strategic importance for his country, being essential to ensuring its sustainable social and economic development. His Government believed that the use of water resources by the countries of the region should be systematically regulated with a view to promoting the development of all, and it planned to continue its close cooperation with the United Nations system in order to promote the rational use of water resources in the region. In that process, it was vital to strengthen the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

72. Access to reliable sources of energy was another key element undergirding sustainable development, and his country therefore placed a great priority on developing hydroelectric energy. It was his Government's view that hydroelectric energy could address a number of issues in the Central Asia region, and it believed that the construction of large hydroelectric dams deserved serious consideration as a

clean energy solution to the region's energy needs, in conjunction with solar energy and biogas.

73. The Rio+20 Conference had noted the importance of mountain ecosystems in sustainable development, and it had reiterated the call to protect them by adopting long-term strategies and programmes tailored to their unique requirements. His country fully supported that assessment, and it called on the international community to re-evaluate the contributions mountainous regions made to promoting a green economy, sustainable development and human well-being. Concrete measures were needed to compensate local mountain-based societies for their contributions to preserving their alpine ecosystems.

74. Finally, as food security was one of the greatest concerns for mountainous countries, his Government called for the elaboration of tailored strategies, programmes and directives to ensure food security and to react adequately to price increases.

75. **Ms. Ben Dor** (Israel) said that countries must take concrete action to implement the Rio+20 outcomes. National macroeconomic policies must promote sustainable development and sustained, equitable and inclusive growth. Israel spent a significant portion of its tax revenue on universal health care, housing and education. It levied an 80 per cent tax on polluting vehicles, compared to a 10 per cent rate for electric cars.

76. Israel was in one of the planet's most arid regions and had responded to the resulting challenges innovatively. Ninety per cent of its homes were fitted with solar water heaters. Ten per cent of its energy would be renewable by 2020. Israel used water efficiently, recycling more of its wastewater than any other country. Farmers used advanced drip irrigation systems and researched botanical species requiring little water. Such measures put Israel at the forefront of the fight against desertification. It was committed to sharing its expertise and had initiated General Assembly resolution 62/190 – Agricultural technology for development, as well as proposing a 2012 resolution on entrepreneurship in development.

77. The international community had not only the duty, but also the power, to promote sustainable development for a better future.

78. **Mr. Dingha** (Congo) said that the outcome of Rio+20 had been disappointing, but that the

Conference had nonetheless been a step forward. Countries should incorporate poverty eradication into their national development policies, while taking into account internationally agreed development objectives. The Rio+20 conclusions should be quickly implemented, with a focus on reinvigorating the international partnership for sustainable development and strengthening its institutional framework; transferring green technology to developing nations; formulating the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015; defining the sustainable development goals; establishing an intergovernmental process for sustainable development finance; and following up the voluntary commitments.

79. The Congolese government saw protecting biodiversity as a high priority. For 26 years, a national tree day had been celebrated on 6 November. The director of operations for the two Congos at the World Bank had recently announced that the Congo was leading African nations in forest management. The financial and practical support of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) was deeply appreciated.

80. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's recommendations with regard to sustainable energy contained in documents A/67/314 and A/67/318.

81. **Mr. Bilauri** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that adequate national consultations prior to the implementation of the Rio+20 outcome would be required. Outstanding Conference issues being dealt with in the General Assembly should be handled in a timely and inclusive fashion in order to ensure consensual conclusions.

82. The implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa was a matter of urgency and would aid Tanzania's progress towards meeting the MDGs. The threat of climate change was a compelling reason to act expeditiously, and his Government had therefore integrated climate change adaptation measures into its national policies. Countries with high emissions should make deep emissions cuts. In accordance with the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, his delegation urged developed countries to increase financial support,

technology transfer and technical assistance for the development of sustainable agriculture.

83. Biodiversity contributed to livelihoods, and its loss affected the poor disproportionately, while posing a significant barrier to the achievement of the MDGs. Coastal and marine ecosystems beyond national jurisdiction should be exploited for the benefit of all, given their role in poverty reduction and food security. He stressed that, although biodiversity needed protecting, conservation measures should be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, according to national circumstances and capacities. Energy was key to a healthy economy, and promoting new and renewable energy was critical. His country had resolved to utilize all sources of energy and expected that, within three years, energy deficit would be a thing of the past.

84. **Mr. Fouda Ndi** (Cameroon) said he hoped that the proposal for a technology-transfer mechanism contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/67/348) would be swiftly implemented – within the current session of the General Assembly, if possible. Noting that desertification, drought and soil degradation deeply aggravated poverty in Cameroon, he called on the international community to find solutions to food insecurity problems in affected regions.

85. With regard to renewable energy, he said that the integration of sustainable development principles into national policy had enabled Cameroon to achieve tangible results. It had increased the proportion of its territory that was protected to support biodiversity, and in conjunction with other central African States had established a cross-border network of protected areas.

86. Forest management was of particular importance to Cameroon, as it derived 11 per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP) from its forests, and forest work employed many Cameroonians. Cameroon was taking international sustainable development concerns into consideration in its management of its forests, creation of forest reserves, reforestation and establishment of forest management units charged with passing on traditional knowledge. Such programmes had been initiated owing to an innate sense of responsibility; however, reciprocal international support for that effort was frequently lacking.

87. Floods had recently affected Cameroon, causing death, displacement of populations and significant material losses, including ruined infrastructure and

agricultural structures. That disaster had highlighted the need for international solidarity in crisis prevention, and he therefore urged the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. At the national level, Cameroon's President had established a fund for natural disaster victims, as a complement to the national contingency plan created in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme in 2002.

88. **Ms. Ben Dor** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statements made by the representatives of Syria and the Sudan had unnecessarily politicized the discussion. Those inappropriate remarks had been intended to divert attention from the unsustainability of the Syrian regime, which was systematically slaughtering its people. The 2006 oil slick had been mentioned various times, but without any context – Hezbollah had started the conflict by attacking Israel. Such omissions were not accidental, but were deliberate attempts to slander Israel. She hoped that, with important issues to consider, the Committee's future discussions would not be hindered by such attacks.

89. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, as was so often the case, the representative of the Israeli occupation was attempting to cover up the crimes perpetrated by her country and its failure to comply with United Nations resolutions. The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, entitled "The future we want", had called for an end to foreign occupation so that, like other peoples of the world, peoples living under occupation could realize their right to sustainable development. Israeli occupation forces and settlers had recently set fire to large areas of Arab agricultural land and, in 2012 alone, had uprooted 7,500 olive trees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan. As a result of Israeli actions, the contribution made by agriculture to the Palestinian economy had fallen from 28 per cent in 1993 to only 5.8 per cent in 2012. In the light of those statistics, the representative of Israel had no right to talk about promoting sustainable development. Israel had, moreover, failed to comply with General Assembly resolution 66/192, which had called upon it to compensate Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic for the damage that had resulted from the oil slick that had been caused by its barbaric bombardment of a Lebanese civilian power plant.

*The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.*