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Chair: Mr. Talbot (Guyana)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Khan** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that certain developing countries had made a substantial contribution to international economic and social development and had thus helped to mitigate the adverse effects of the global financial and economic crises. Further steps were required, however, to sustain global economic recovery and collective action was needed to craft a long-term response to the challenges posed by poverty, hunger and climate change with a view to establishing a more resilient and equitable global economy. Moreover, Member States needed to strengthen their capacity to respond to current and future development challenges, and to address the needs and aspirations of the poor and most vulnerable, particularly children.

2. Although action taken by Member States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had improved the lives of millions of people, many least developed countries were not on target to achieve those Goals by 2015 and urgently required assistance to enable them to do so. The post-2015 development agenda must retain a focus on poverty eradication and, in that connection, the world must formulate development strategies that balanced economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability, while also taking action to prevent the occurrence of another global financial and economic crisis.

3. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (the Rio+20 Conference), entitled "The future we want", constituted a framework for addressing future sustainable development challenges and would guide the work of the Second Committee (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex). Member States must build upon the successes of the MDGs and integrate sustainable development objectives into the post-2015 development agenda. Moreover, they must mobilize additional financial resources to support sustainable development, and ensure that the high-level political forum for sustainable development that was agreed upon at the Rio+20 Conference led to the fulfilment of sustainable development commitments and contributed to the reform of the Economic and Social Council.

4. ASEAN underscored the importance of a successful outcome to the Doha Climate Change Conference. Greater attention must be given to mitigating climate change and the risks associated with disasters. To that end, Member States must facilitate technology transfer and capacity-building activities in developing countries and strengthen regional disaster risk reduction mechanisms. They must uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and, while developed countries must take the lead in reducing emissions, developing countries must also take action to that end.

5. **Mr. Khitchadeth** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that the Group wished to associate itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

6. Despite the notable progress that had been achieved towards implementing the Almaty Programme of Action, the landlocked developing countries continued to face serious constraints and challenges in connection with trade, transit transport and overall socioeconomic development. Moreover, inadequate transport infrastructure, cumbersome customs and border-crossing procedures, their remoteness from major international markets, and high transport and trade transaction costs made it difficult for them to compete in global markets. The challenges that the landlocked developing countries faced were compounded by other global phenomena, including rising food costs, volatile energy and commodity prices, climate change, desertification and land degradation.

7. Cooperation at the bilateral and global levels could alleviate many of the challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries. It was critical that landlocked developing countries and transit neighbours fulfilled their respective obligations as set forth in the Almaty Programme of Action. The Group of Landlocked Developing Countries strongly supported the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action (A/67/210), especially the call for the international community to provide the landlocked developing countries with financial and technological and capacity-building assistance; additional foreign direct investment and technology transfer was also required to enable them to strengthen their resilience and foster sustainable development. Landlocked developing

countries should also be provided with assistance so that they could accede to international conventions and integrate more fully into the world economy. In that connection, the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries could play an important role in enhancing their analytical capacities and supporting research to address their specific needs. Landlocked developing countries that had not yet acceded to or ratified the multilateral agreement for the establishment of the Think Tank were urged to do so.

8. A comprehensive review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action should be held in 2014 with a view to developing a strategic framework for the next decade that was based on scaled-up partnerships among landlocked and transit developing countries and on effective support from development partners, as called for in General Assembly resolution 66/214, so that landlocked developing countries could become more resilient to external shocks and more fully integrated into the global trading system.

9. **Mr. Khalil** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, said that it was noteworthy that approximately two thirds of United Nations activities aimed to promote development; principles upon which those activities were based must not be changed or renegotiated. All post-Rio+20 processes required an integrated approach and must converge on the same objective, namely the development of an effective, inclusive, fair, sustainable and pro-development post-2015 framework that would, inter alia, reduce inequalities between developed and developing countries.

10. The Arab Group commended the fact that the United Nations Special Unit for South-South Cooperation would be upgraded to become a full United Nations Office. Member States must ensure, however, that that Office was provided with adequate human and financial resources.

11. The developmental impact of international trade must be maximized, in particular within the framework of the Doha Round, which must be brought to a successful conclusion. International support to developing countries in the areas of market access and aid for trade should also be increased. Many developed countries were failing to adhere to previously agreed official development assistance (ODA) commitments. ODA flows must be maintained and, as developing countries' debts had increased as a result of the world

financial and economic crises, creditors must work together with indebted countries to find ways to resolve the debt issue.

12. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must remain the key framework for multilateral negotiations in that area; any international actions to address climate change must be in line with its principles and provisions, particularly the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

13. The Arab Group looked forward to a successful outcome of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Doha, and stressed the importance of full implementation of the package that had been endorsed at the seventeenth session, including, inter alia, the conclusion of a fixed legally binding second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, and the successful completion of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention.

14. Food security must be comprehensively addressed. In particular, stakeholders needed to critically examine the issue of agricultural subsidies paid to farmers in developed countries and the negative impact those subsidies had on small farmers in developing countries. He urged the international community to increase investment in agriculture, rural development and food security, and to address the legitimate demands of developing countries, especially those that were net food importers.

15. The international community should uphold its responsibilities and address the dire economic, social and humanitarian situation of peoples living under foreign occupation, especially Arabs living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan. Member States must take action to stop illegal actions perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, including land confiscations, house demolitions, the expansion of illegal settlements and the imposition of an inhumane and illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip.

16. **Mr. Tommo Monthe** (Cameroon), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, expressed deep concern at the lack of political will to fully implement previously agreed international commitments related to Africa's development goals. Indeed there seemed to be a systematic attempt by certain stakeholders to

renegotiate those commitments. As those commitments remained pivotal to ensuring that Africa entered the mainstream of the global economy, such attempts were unacceptable. It was also unfortunate that developed countries were seeking to renegotiate well-established development cooperation principles within the framework of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review; Member States must uphold the principles that governed United Nations operational activities.

17. Systematic imbalances resulting from the world financial and economic crises, a sharp decline in international trade and a rapid fall in foreign direct investment risked reversing economic recovery and social development in Africa. Concerted efforts were thus needed to maximize the developmental impact of international trade, as well as of measures to foster aid for trade and enhance market access. The developmental mandate of the Doha Round of negotiations should continue to be the basis for any new approaches for the Round's conclusion.

18. African countries faced challenges related to technology transfer and innovation, especially in connection with climate change, international trade and intellectual property rights. They were also forced to deal with volatile energy and food prices. The African Group urged donors to secure additional financial support and to work towards greater transparency and accountability in international development cooperation.

19. Few African States were on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015. ODA therefore played a critical role in promoting economic and social development and eradicating poverty; it was worrisome that in 2011, ODA had decreased for the first time in many years. Although certain States had not met the commitments made at the Gleneagles Summit of the Group of Eight (G-8), those countries that had fulfilled their pledge to double ODA by 2010 were to be commended. Countries that did not yet earmark 0.7 per cent of gross national product for ODA were urged to do so in a timely fashion.

20. The African Group reaffirmed the centrality of the Framework Convention as the legitimate and principal forum for addressing climate change, and was deeply concerned at the lack of political will to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The continent continued to experience, and must take steps to mitigate, rising sea levels, unpredictable weather events, unprecedented and prolonged droughts, floods, heat waves and

increased loss of biodiversity. Over 650 million people in Africa were dependent on rain-fed agriculture in environments affected by water scarcity and land degradation, and two thirds of Africa's arable land could be lost by 2025 if current environmental trends continued. The United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa had concluded that unless effective measures were taken to combat desertification, drought and land degradation, the continent might not be able to feed 75 per cent of its population by 2025. The African Group therefore looked forward to the outcome of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, which, it was hoped, would effectively address issues related to adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology and capacity-building.

21. **Ms. Daniel** (Nauru), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in 2014, would reaffirm that small island developing States faced particular sustainable development challenges because of vulnerabilities related to their small size, remoteness, narrow resource base, exposure to global environmental challenges and external shocks, and potentially more frequent natural disasters. That conference would, inter alia, provide an opportunity to Member States to address concerns arising from a review of the Mauritius Strategy that had concluded that small island developing States had made insufficient progress or even regressed, particularly with regard to poverty reduction and debt sustainability. To help ensure the success of that Conference, the United Nations should designate 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States.

22. A recent study had concluded that a 1.2° Celsius temperature rise could lead to the loss of half the world's coral reefs, with a potentially devastating impact on the economies of many small islands and coastal communities. Furthermore, increasing numbers of studies were concluding that the door to limiting temperature rises to even 2° was rapidly closing. Nonetheless, greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise and concerted efforts had been made in negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to delay additional action to curb emissions until 2020; the 2012 declaration by AOSIS leaders, which called for an

ambitious outcome to the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, aimed to counter such efforts. Reprioritizing pre-2020 mitigation ambitions, adopting a comprehensive work plan, mobilizing finance, technology and capacity-building capabilities and adopting a legally binding second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol should be part of that outcome; AOSIS would not endorse any outcome that treated island nations as collateral damage.

23. As dependence on imported fossil fuels for transport and electricity generation was a major source of economic vulnerability for small island developing States, she urged the international community to provide financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to help them collectively develop their vast renewable energy resources.

24. **Mr. Mayr-Harting** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union and its Member States remained committed to multilateralism. Deliberations of the Second Committee during the current session must take into consideration the debates and outcomes reached in other relevant meetings, including those of the Rio+20 Conference, the Bretton Woods institutions and the G-8 and Group of Twenty (G-20). The European Union and its Member States would continue to be guided by their efforts to establish a successful post-2015 development framework and, in particular, would focus on preparing for the special event that would be held in 2013 to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the MDGs, as well as preparing for the follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference.

25. The European Union and its Member States' commitment towards the achievement of the MDGs remained unwavering. The MDGs had been a success story; they had heightened the political focus on poverty, and the number of people living in absolute poverty had decreased by 600 million since 1990. Collectively, the European Union and its Member States were the largest provider of ODA. The European Union was, moreover, the largest trading partner of developing countries, particularly least developed countries, and the largest economy giving those

countries duty- and quota-free access. The European Union would continue to press hard right up to the 2015 deadline to enable countries to meet existing MDGs, and would focus, in particular, on those countries and sectors that were most off-track.

26. The European Union and its Member States were highly committed to implementing all undertakings adopted at the Rio+20 Conference on the inclusive green economy, the priority areas for action, the elaboration of sustainable development goals, and the financing strategy and institutional framework for sustainable development. They would also work to deepen bilateral and regional trade relations with developing countries through economic partnership and free-trade agreements and the Union's new Generalized System of Preferences would further benefit those countries most in need. At the multilateral level, they remained committed to the Doha Development Agenda and to a multilateral agreement on trade facilitation. The European Union and its Member States would also endeavour to ensure policy coherence and consistency, not only between the follow-up to Rio+20, the post-2015 development agenda, and the Financing for Development process, but also with many other processes including those relating to, *inter alia*, democracy, human rights and gender equality.

27. As the range of financing sources for the post-2015 development agenda and the implementation of the Rio outcomes was similar, an integrated approach to the financing and other means of implementation of both processes, as well as other processes such as climate change and biodiversity finance, should be pursued with a view to ensuring coherence and non-duplication of efforts. However, Financing for Development would continue to rely, primarily, on domestic resources, and domestic policies remained key to achieving development goals; international cooperation on taxation and other policy issues could complement domestic action, help unlock contributions from private investment and provide sources of innovative financing. A "beyond-aid" approach with shared responsibilities within the international community should be promoted, building on the progress made at the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Furthermore, the role and responsibilities of emerging economies should reflect their growing weight in the global economy.

28. Effectiveness remained one of the key pillars of development cooperation. The European Union and its

Member States therefore attached great importance to the “Delivering as One” initiative and the United Nations quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which offered an important opportunity to further enhance the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of United Nations operational activities for development.

29. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the prolonged global economic crisis was not responding to measures taken at various levels to reverse the downward trend. With a long-expected recovery still not in sight, developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, were experiencing severe hardships and confronting multiple challenges ranging from food and energy shortages to economic stagnation and environmental degradation. More than 800 million people continued to live in poverty in the least developed countries, with little hope of immediate relief.

30. Nearly two years had passed since the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries had adopted the Istanbul Programme of Action, which had set the overarching goal of graduating half of the least developed countries by 2020; its successful implementation remained at the centre of the Group’s concerns. The Group supported the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (A/67/88) but believed that a more proactive approach was needed in order to effectively implement the actions agreed upon under the eight priority areas.

31. Increasing access to knowledge and technology would be particularly vital to the structural transformation of the least developed countries. The Group called for the establishment of a technology bank and the creation of a science, technology and innovation support mechanism to that end, as agreed to in Istanbul. The least developed countries should have an opportunity to benefit from rapid technological change in order to accelerate growth and reduce poverty. At the same time, international commitments to duty-free and quota-free market access, the reduction of non-tariff barriers, aid for trade and the recent World Trade Organization (WTO) decisions on an early harvest with respect to market access for the least developed countries should be enacted on a priority basis.

32. Turning to migration issues, he said that in the current international economic climate, clear differentiation between persons seeking to migrate permanently for reasons unrelated to economic issues and those seeking temporary work opportunities was crucial. Developed countries should remove the strict eligibility conditions required for the temporary movement of workers under existing immigration regulations and replace policies favouring the permanent migration of professionals from developing countries with provisions facilitating temporary movement.

33. The Group of Least Developed Countries endorsed the recommendation on generating employment and decent work, reducing inequalities and providing for inclusive growth contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)” (A/66/221). It further welcomed the reposition suggestions on income-supporting measures from developing countries as a strategy to correct market outcomes in favour of those with weak negotiating power, as well as the policy advice it offered on ways to deal with macroeconomic shocks. The Group stood ready to benefit from all types of cooperation to enhance the least developed countries’ resilience to economic and natural shocks, including through targeted, timely and adequate support from development partners and South-South and triangular cooperation. It looked forward to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities with a view to enhancing the efficiency of development efforts. At the same time, the Group stressed the need for a separate discussion on options for an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives. It hoped that the deliberation on a financing for development follow-up mechanism would be concluded during the current session and called for a concerted effort to reach consensus on various competing options to reverse declining political momentum in the treatment of those issues.

34. Of particular importance to the least developed countries was the Least Developed Countries Fund, created to address their climate adaptation needs, and in that context, the Group called for an accelerated operationalization of the Green Climate Fund.

Currently, the funds available were insufficient to meet the adaptation needs of the least developed countries, and there was a pressing need for broader programmes which were integrated into national development strategies. On a related note, the persistent downward trend with respect to ODA was cause for concern, as most donors had reduced their ODA in response to the global economic downturn. The Group therefore called on donor countries to set progressive quantitative aid targets for the least developed countries. From the perspective of recipient countries, the lack of predictability with respect to ODA flows could jeopardize the achievement of the MDGs by 2015, and it called on Governments to remain true to their commitments in that regard. It especially wished to express its appreciation to Sweden, Norway, Luxembourg, Denmark and the Netherlands for having provided aid over and above the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) in 2011.

35. Lastly, insufficient debt relief was one of the major impediments to development, and every possible step should be taken to ensure the transparency of debt management at all levels. In particular, the least developed countries should be shielded from predatory creditors who misused debt restructuring mechanisms, and public debt reduction policies should avoid impacting negatively on the growth of gross domestic product (GDP). As the MDG Gap Task Force Report 2012 identified 20 low-income and vulnerable countries which were in debt distress or at high risk, international debt relief initiatives that were about to expire should be replaced by new initiatives. The impact of the crisis on debt sustainability should be discussed with the Bretton Woods institutions.

36. All of those issues had to be included in the discussion of the reform of the Economic and Social Council, which should ultimately be endowed with a decisive mandate to establish normative determinations to ensure coherence and equity in the treatment of those issues. In conclusion, he expressed the Group's support for institutionalizing the inter-agency mechanisms to follow up the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and called on the international community to increase voluntary contributions to that end.

37. **Mr. Hassan Shihab** (Maldives) said that for the past two decades, Maldives had been addressing the threat of climate change, having voiced concerns over frequent storms and rising sea levels long before the

issue had captured the world's attention. With its highest point just 1.5 metres above sea level, confronting climate change was a question that concerned the country's very survival. Despite the fact that it contributed a mere 0.003 per cent to the world's total greenhouse gas emissions, it stood to lose the most, as more than 50 per cent of its 1,190 islands were already experiencing severe coastal erosion. With tourism and fisheries bringing in over 80 per cent of the country's revenue, the deterioration of its ecosystem would have enormous consequences for its population.

38. His Government was currently spending more than 27 per cent of its budget on building resilience to combat the effects of climate change, and 20 islands had already switched to renewable sources of energy. Its target was to become carbon neutral by 2020. In spite of its best efforts, however, it could not hope to succeed if countries with greater resources did not commit themselves to reducing their own carbon footprints.

39. As a participant at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20), Maldives had welcomed the Secretary-General's "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative and now supported its full implementation with the aim of providing universal access to energy, promoting renewable sources and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. To that end, more countries should take the lead, more multilateral banks should commit to those targets, and more public-private partnerships should be formed.

40. His delegation wished to see the early implementation of commitments made at Rio+20 which were relevant to the small island developing States, particularly with regard to sustainable development goals and the oceans, and looked forward to the upcoming conference on small island developing States, to be held in Samoa. It believed that 2014 should be designated as the International Year of Small Island Developing States and urged all Member States to support that initiative.

41. **Mr. Román-Morey** (Peru) said that with the approach of the 2015 deadline for the MDGs, his country was extremely concerned by the existence of parallel development agendas. That did not contribute to the efforts made by the United Nations, in which a unity of purpose should prevail. In the context of United Nations development initiatives, the upcoming

quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be a unique opportunity to rechannel those energies into achieving more coherent results. His country was concerned by the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources, which had led to fragmentation and increased transaction costs. It believed that resources should constitute the basis for operational activities for development.

42. Donor countries' flagging commitment to the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNI was a worrying phenomenon, the result of recent budget cuts in response to the global economic crisis. In that context, it was important to address the plight of middle-income countries, as they contained more than 70 per cent of the world's poor, and to supplement per capita criteria for allocating ODA by a structural gap approach that examined factors limiting development. To that end, his country stressed the need for an ad hoc working group to consider the appropriate framework in which to tackle the development challenges of middle-income countries, in line with the report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries (A/66/220).

43. At a time of global economic crisis, leadership, to be effective, must take into account best practices and lessons learned, give a greater say to developing countries and emerging economies, reject protectionist measures and acknowledge the key role played by the United Nations in global economic governance.

44. Rio+20 represented an important achievement in the pursuit of multilateralism based on consensus and cooperation among countries; Member States should now avoid reopening discussions or reinterpreting its mandate. The sustainable development goals were the most important and tangible outcome of Rio+20; they incorporated recommendations made by his country and others in 1992 to address environmental degradation from a cross-cutting perspective, using measurement criteria and adjustable goals based on the individual circumstances of each country. Those tools should now be used to eradicate poverty and achieve social inclusion. He called for the immediate establishment of an open-ended working group to define the sustainable development goals.

45. **Mr. Ahamed** (India) said that with more than 1 billion people worldwide living in extreme poverty and hunger, the post-2015 development agenda should focus on the absolute imperative of poverty eradication

while remaining faithful to the principles articulated at Rio+20, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. While discussions of a post-2015 agenda had come to include such important issues as peace and security within the development framework, those issues should not distract from core development challenges.

46. The development landscape had changed dramatically over the years, with a number of new actors — the private sector, private foundations and civil society — increasingly participating as key players. South-South cooperation had likewise been enhanced and should be permitted to grow within its own space and in accordance with its own principles, but not as a substitute for North-South cooperation.

47. With the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity under way in his country, he urged all participants to work for a strong development-oriented outcome and for the early implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. Climate change remained one of the most pressing challenges facing the world, and his country looked forward to a comprehensive, equitable and balanced outcome of the upcoming eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Doha, with the central and essential deliverable being a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol.

48. In addition, the process and outcome of the recently initiated Durban Platform for Enhanced Action should operate under the Convention and in full accordance with its principles and provisions, in particular those of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The principles, provisions and structure of the Framework Convention should be respected and form the basis for any international cooperation on climate change.

49. The global economic situation remained a cause for profound concern, in spite of concerted international efforts to overcome its worst depredations. The persistent economic vulnerabilities, coupled with new and emerging challenges, called for urgent reform of global governance structures. It was imperative that developing countries should be given a

role in the decision-making structures of global economic and financial institutions, notably the Bretton Woods institutions, in order to address the core concerns of the least developed countries, small island developing States, and landlocked developing countries in Africa on the issues of debt sustainability, financial assistance, trade and development.

50. Lastly, it was imperative that the United Nations move forward on the issue of reform by expanding its roster of permanent and non-permanent Security Council members, revitalizing the General Assembly and strengthening the Economic and Social Council. In that context, the Second Committee should assume a larger role in fashioning and guiding the global development agenda.

51. **Mr. Maksimychev** (Russian Federation) said that the global economic situation, which had become increasingly characterized by an accumulation of imbalances and the looming threat of a second downturn, continued to raise serious concerns. Nevertheless, his country had successfully avoided overly serious losses, despite its close integration into the world economy. GDP growth in 2011 totalled 4.3 per cent, making it one of the highest rates among the major world economies, while public debt was the lowest among the G-20 countries. Its foreign debt was just \$42 billion, with foreign currency reserves in excess of \$520 billion and a budget surplus of \$17 billion.

52. His Government believed that the key issue of national policy was the development of a favourable and fully competitive investment climate, and in that spirit it had set itself the goal of joining the world's top 20 business-friendly countries by 2020. To that end, a number of specific road maps had already been charted to eliminate administrative barriers in such areas as energy, construction, customs, international trade, business registration and tax accounts.

53. Given the current state of the global economy, coordinated measures were necessary to rehabilitate the international financial system and to firmly link it to fundamental indicators of the real economy. In that context, it would be appropriate to contemplate a greater role for emerging economies in the decision-making process. The global nature and interdependence of the international economic system entailed global responsibility, primarily on the part of the world's leading economies, and his country could be counted

upon to uphold its traditional role as a responsible partner.

54. As the Chair of the G-20 in 2013, his Government believed that the Organization should fully assume the burden of efficient leadership and should become a platform where equitable rules were established to promote progressive social and economic development for all countries. Efficient leadership consisted of making realistic decisions which inspired confidence and facilitated the search for a fundamental solution to global stagnation and instability.

55. The United Nations faced enormous challenges in securing the political agreements reached at Rio+20 and consolidating 15 years of effort towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular by introducing a heightened level of accountability in keeping with the principles of sustainable development. While sustainable development goals would be a key element of the post-2015 development agenda, they should not devalue the MDGs or sidetrack the international community's efforts to achieve them.

56. Nor was sustainable development purely an environmental matter, as preserving the environment required financial resources which were impossible to mobilize in a period of economic stagnation. Economic growth without social progress and the elimination of injustice could not ensure social stability or development. What was required was a new solidarity-based global development paradigm in which priority was given to human prosperity and the preservation of a common heritage, a task to which the United Nations was committed and to which his country would generously contribute.

57. **Mr. Dabbashi** (Libya) said that while certain countries were on track to achieve the MDGs by 2015, others were struggling to do so because of structural challenges, insufficient resources, and the failure of certain development partners to fulfil their commitments. Member States must mobilize and make efficient use of national financial and economic resources. Libya also urged donor countries and institutions to fully honour the commitments they had made to developing countries. Economic and social policy reform at the global level was not an impossible task; it did, however, require strong global institutions, firm international political will and strong support from within the international financial system.

58. Despite greater financial flows across borders, the global financial system remained unstable. Furthermore, poorer countries that lacked access to capital remained marginalized. Action must be taken to establish a post-2015 global financial system that was truly equitable, democratic and conducive to sustainable development.

59. Climate change disproportionately threatened developing countries, which lacked sufficient resources and the technical capacities to address that phenomenon effectively and mitigate its effects. Despite the fact that Libya had invested tens of billions of dollars in projects to prevent desertification and soil degradation, those efforts would ultimately prove insufficient without regional and international support. Libya hoped that the upcoming Doha Climate Change Conference would lead to a comprehensive agreement in which States fully assumed their responsibilities with regard to combating climate change.

60. International policies should favour greater political independence, and the multilateral trading system must seek to remove unfair trade restrictions imposed on goods and services from developing countries when they enjoyed a comparative advantage. In that connection, Libya welcomed the expansion of the list of African goods that were exempt from duty when imported to developed countries. Libya had, moreover, concluded a large number of bilateral and multilateral trade and preferential treatment agreements with Arab and African countries.

61. Although free trade could be used as a tool for social and economic development, Member States sometimes needed to enact measures to protect their national economies; Member States' economic, political and cultural decisions should be respected.

62. **Mr. Al-Sulaim** (Saudi Arabia) said that the economic and financial crises that had begun in 2008, spikes in food and commodity prices, and the negative effects of climate change had had a disproportionate impact on developing countries, exacerbated inequalities between rich and poor countries and increased global instability.

63. Global partnerships must be forged to address the root causes and outcomes of the various crises. Ensuring economic equality and stable economic development in the world could only be achieved through collective efforts based on a sense of shared responsibility. A new global economy was needed, as

were partnerships between the developing and the developed worlds that were based on justice, equality and transparency. States must avoid protectionism, reduce trade subsidies and successfully complete the Doha Round. In particular, industrialized States must reduce trade subsidies and facilitate market access for goods produced in developing countries. An inclusive approach was also required to address the short-, medium- and long-term impacts of the food crisis and its human rights implications. Member States must, inter alia, promote investment in agriculture, land reclamation and scientific research with a view to ensuring food security.

64. Domestically, Saudi Arabia had succeeded in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger before the Millennium Development Goal deadline of 2015. It had also achieved, and even exceeded certain other related objectives. Saudi Arabia was also one of the world's leading providers of ODA and had given approximately \$103 billion in aid to more than 95 developing countries over the previous 35 years. That amount far exceeded the United Nations ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product.

65. Saudi Arabia was doing its utmost to promote dialogue between energy producers and consumers and was constantly working to ensure stability in global oil markets. It was concerned, however, by selective policies adopted by certain industrialized countries and believed that it was not possible to avoid the use of fossil fuels. Furthermore, new carbon sequestration technologies allowed the world to use fossil fuels to produce energy while mitigating any damage to the environment.

66. Within the framework of its ninth national development programme, Saudi Arabia was working to strengthen environmental protection. Saudi Arabia was a signatory to numerous international instruments in that area, including the Kyoto Protocol, and would continue to participate fully in global environmental protection efforts. Saudi Arabia urged all Member States to subscribe to the Rio Principles, especially, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

67. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that the world financial crisis had had a particularly harmful effect on the least developed countries, and that issues of poverty, hunger, climate change, natural disasters, energy and food insecurity, market volatility and insurmountable debt persisted, undermined their efforts

to achieve internationally agreed development goals. Nevertheless, his Government firmly believed that those challenges could be overcome through effective, coordinated and coherent action on the part of all stakeholders, and it called on developed countries to honour their commitments to cooperate with developing countries in their development efforts in the form of financial and technical assistance.

68. Since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001, his country had begun to rebuild its political, economic and social structures, and to ensure that all its citizens had access to basic services. It had made enormous strides in the past decade in the areas of health care, education, gender equality and economic infrastructure. However, a precarious security situation and the threat of terrorism continued to impede the implementation of the Government's development policies. Security-related issues and their impact on the development of post-conflict countries should therefore be given proper consideration by the Second Committee.

69. Afghanistan had joined the international community in committing to the MDGs in 2004, setting 2020 as the target date for their completion. Despite ongoing challenges, his Government remained committed to achieving those Goals with the support of the international community and believed that discussion of the post-2015 development agenda should not interfere with the process. His country's primary source of income, agriculture, was threatened by desertification and climate change. In addition, the decades-long conflict and high population growth had severely damaged farmland and infrastructure. He therefore called on the international community to help the agricultural sector by providing technical and financial support. He expressed Afghanistan's strong support for the Group of 77 and China position that the Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol should remain the central multilateral framework for addressing climate change.

70. Lastly, his country supported closer collaboration between developing countries and development partners, as well as all other relevant actors, to implement the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Almaty Programme of Action in order to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support for the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries.

71. **Ms. Smith** (Norway) said that the inclusion of Norwegian women in the workforce had contributed to the country's economic success, and that in general, development and equitable distribution should be viewed in the context of gender equality. The link between women's empowerment and economic and social development was clear, and her country was a prime example of that principle. Guaranteed parental leave was the key to enabling women to participate in the workforce and in what was a virtuous circle, Norway's generous parental leave was, in turn, a direct consequence of their participation.

72. With three years remaining until the deadline for the MDGs, the focus should not stray from the work at hand. Before it turned its attention to the post-2015 development agenda, her country was committed to achieving the MDGs and would continue its intensive efforts in that direction, particularly with regard to health-related goals, education and gender equality, a commitment reflected in its decision to contribute 1 per cent of its GNI as ODA in 2013.

73. With respect to a post-2015 agenda, her Government had issued a white paper on United Nations policy detailing its vision on ways to mobilize the global community and resources, and renew the world's political commitment to development. While economic growth over the past decade had lifted many countries out of poverty, the overall number of poor people had remained essentially constant, implying that only a small percentage of people were benefiting from economic growth. It would be important to ensure that the redistribution of wealth within and among countries was given a central place in the preparation of the post-2015 agenda. To that end, developing countries should mobilize more of their own domestic resources by broadening their tax base, fighting corruption, and increasing transparency and accountability.

74. In fulfilling the Rio+20 mandate to coordinate a set of sustainable development goals with the post-2015 agenda, it would be crucial to avoid having two separate sets of goals that competed for resources and political attention. The two processes should be integrated into one framework and into one set of goals that was development-oriented and integrated all dimensions of sustainable development.

75. In response to criticism of the United Nations for inefficiency and the duplication of structures, it had implemented substantial reforms. The "Delivering as

One” pilot programmes had been a success. The pilot countries had demonstrated leadership and determination in following up those reforms and promoting system-wide coherence. The pilot phase was now at an end, and it was time to integrate and recognize “Delivering as One” as the main modality for United Nations country operations.

76. Lastly, she wished to stress the importance of the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). With 3 million people being added to the world’s cities each week, its work to develop new norms and standards for urban development and its planning of a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) in 2016 were to be commended.

77. **Ms. Rubiales** (Nicaragua) said that the world now faced the worst economic crisis in living memory, and those who had falsely proclaimed that it had been overcome now faced the prospect of a relapse with unpredictable consequences. As a result, it was imperative that the model governing the international order, in which the majority was exploited by the minority, should be changed and that a new financial architecture should be put in place.

78. In Latin America and the Caribbean, a new society of fraternity, solidarity, complementarity and cooperation was being built through the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas (ALBA) and Petrocaribe, which promoted fair trade of raw materials, agricultural products, and fisheries resources. As a result, her country’s social and economic development had never been stronger. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), her country was projected to grow at 5 per cent, while formal employment was growing at a rate of 8.9 per cent, making it the only country in the region to have exceeded a 6 per cent rate of employment growth.

79. Rio+20 had offered the world an opportunity to reaffirm its political will with respect to the development agenda and to set out firm commitments, but that had not been enough. It was equally important to rethink the international economic architecture in order to take into account a holistic vision of the world economy that promoted social inclusion and equality. It was her hope that the follow-up process to Rio+20

would provide a greater institutional framework for those ideals.

80. With respect to climate change, developed countries should be encouraged to assume their historic responsibilities and to take the initiative to address the issue within the context of the Framework Convention. Nicaragua supported a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol and hoped that the decisions taken at the Cancún and Durham Climate Change Conferences would soon be implemented. In conclusion, her country called for a new conference on financing for development, as four years had already elapsed since the previous one, but still no international agreement had been reached to deal with the economic crisis.

81. **Ms. Cousens** (United States of America) said that the development landscape was rapidly changing, with unprecedented global development gains having been made in recent years. Hundreds of millions of people had been lifted out of poverty, and a number of MDG targets had been achieved, such as expanding access to drinking water, improving the lives of slum dwellers and enrolling girls in primary education. However, those gains had not been enjoyed everywhere or on every issue. Shortfalls included a lack of progress in reducing maternal mortality rates, while hunger and poor nutrition remained major global challenges. The least developed countries, in particular, had experienced limited improvements, with low-income conflict-affected countries lagging far behind in achieving the MDGs.

82. At the same time, the global economic recovery remained incomplete, unemployment in much of the world remained persistently high, trade had been dampened by concerns over sovereign debt, and food and energy volatility had aggravated economic uncertainty. As the world’s largest aid donor, her country would continue to prioritize strategies to mitigate those risks and to promote sustained and inclusive development through programmes such as Our Global Health and Feed the Future. In addition, it would continue to seek innovative technological solutions to address the world’s critical development challenges.

83. With the rapid approach of the deadline for meeting the MDGs, the work of the Second Committee should be placed in the context of a vigorous effort to achieve them. In that context, her delegation would

stress two cross-cutting themes: economic empowerment and critical enabling conditions for sustainable development, particularly democratic and accountable governance. With regard to empowerment, it was a moral obligation that women, girls, young people, the disadvantaged and the marginalized should be placed at the centre of development efforts in an inclusive economy. By advancing equality and opportunity for women and girls, the potential of half the world's population would be unlocked; by promoting youth employment, entire societies could be transformed; and including the marginalized in development planning would bring hope to millions.

84. With regard to democratic and accountable governance, her country hoped that the work of the Second Committee and the wider United Nations system would devote greater practical attention to advancing critical enabling conditions for development, including the rule of law and effective policies and governing institutions. Good governance inspired confidence throughout societies, and while ODA remained essential, the true driver of significant growth and development was investment and related factors, such as trade and remittances, all of which relied on a climate of confidence and stability in order to flourish.

85. With the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda just beginning, it was critical that the United Nations development system should become operationally more efficient and effective in carrying out its development activities, and that all stakeholders should better align their economic, social and environmental policies in order to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

86. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Japan) said that a year and a half after his country had been devastated by a major earthquake, the Japanese people were committed to passing down lessons learned from the disaster to future generations. In that spirit, his country was now offering to host the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015, for which it hoped to obtain the Second Committee's formal approval during the current session.

87. Referring to the resolution on human security adopted by the General Assembly in September (A/RES/66/290), he said that human security was an effective approach in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the

survival, livelihood and dignity of people, which strengthened capacity-building and the economic empowerment of communities and individuals, especially women and youth. Based on the resolution, his country intended to promote human security in all parts of the world in close collaboration with various stakeholders. To that end, his Government had contributed \$10 million to the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, and would be discussing human security in Africa at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) in 2013.

88. As discussions of the post-2015 development agenda began, his delegation welcomed the establishment of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Japan had also taken a lead role in organizing an informal policy dialogue group, known as the Post-MDGs Contact Group. Thus far, the Group had determined that the new development agenda framework should be established through an inclusive process anchored on a broad partnership, and that the post-2015 development agenda should be built on the strength of the existing MDGs. Simplicity and measurability should be its hallmarks, and it should be capable of addressing emerging and re-emerging challenges, such as employment, equity and equality, disaster reduction, the environment and sustainability. Human security, equity, sustainability and resilience should be guiding concepts of a post-2015 agenda, which must evolve from a full-fledged discussion among stakeholders on how to realize a common future.

89. His country would actively participate in the follow-up processes of Rio+20, including through participation in discussions on sustainable development goals, as well as in the Green Future initiative, under which it would host an international conference on urban planning in 2013. Japan had taken a number of regional and bilateral initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases, including the East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership, its low-carbon growth and climate resilient development strategy within the framework of TICAD, and its new flexible market mechanism. Japan would also be making every effort to achieve an exemplary balance between green energy and economic growth and would be actively contributing to discussions on the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

90. Reiterating the responsibility of the international community to help developing countries integrate into the multilateral trading system, he said that Japan had steadily implemented its aid-for-trade pledge to provide \$12 million for trade-related assistance projects. Through its involvement in the review of aid for trade, Japan was sharing lessons learned in Asia with other regions, particularly Africa.

91. As for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, he said that a flexible approach should be taken to operational activities for development, which must respond to the real needs of developing countries and incorporate a human security perspective. His delegation agreed with the view expressed in the Secretary-General's report that development cooperation should adapt to the changing development landscape (A/67/93-E/2012/79). Lastly, discussions concerning core and non-core funding must reflect current realities: diverse funding modalities could not be bundled together and labelled "non-core".

92. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that the global financial meltdown had delegitimized unilateral protectionism and market recklessness in a globalized world, while reminding all stakeholders of the need for unity to face global challenges and redress historical injustices. As achievement of many internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, had faltered in recent years, it was imperative that an immediate action plan should be put in place in order to analyse the causes of that reversal. Any development framework for the post-2015 development agenda should take into account the ways in which the context for development had changed since the MDGs had been agreed, including patterns of inequality between countries and trends related to technology transfers, demography, capacity-building, urbanization and migration. At the same time, the global economic crisis must not be an excuse to renege on ODA commitments, and development partners should honour both the pledges they made a decade ago in Monterrey and the obligation to scale up ODA and bilateral assistance to help developing countries weather the crisis.

93. With regard to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of United Nations operational activities, his delegation wished to see due importance given by the United Nations system and partner countries to the future prosperity of developing countries, especially the least developed countries. It shared the concerns of the Group of 77 and China with respect to the growing

imbalance between core and non-core resources for operational activities, and their increasing lack of predictability, growing fragmentation and increased transaction costs, and hoped that the upcoming policy review would lead to a solution to those core problems.

94. Concerning climate change, it was vital that the Adaptation Fund be immediately activated and replenished in order to distribute its resources to the most vulnerable countries; otherwise, it would be impossible to achieve the MDGs by 2015. His country had already adopted a 134-point climate change action plan, but most of its programmes faced implementation delays as the result of resource scarcity and the unavailability of modern green technology.

95. His delegation also urged the General Assembly to launch without delay the follow-up processes agreed to at Rio+20 by ensuring a balanced representation of developing countries, the effective and full implementation of the outcomes of the Conference, and the provision of adequate means of implementation to developing countries. The least developed countries deserved to have a say in any working group established to elaborate sustainable development goals.

96. Lastly, the deadlock in international trade negotiations was of grave concern to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries. It was incumbent on development partners to demonstrate greater flexibility and political will to secure an early conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, particularly with respect to quota- and duty-free access for products from the least developed countries and the free movement of labour.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.