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Chair: Mr. Diallo (Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Statement by the Chair

1. **The Chair** said that poverty eradication and sustainable development remained the key development challenges for the international community. The post-2015 development agenda should build on the Millennium Development Goals.

2. It was imperative that the General Assembly, especially the Second Committee, the Economic and Social Council and the new High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development work seamlessly in dealing with critical global sustainable development challenges. The Second Committee must show leadership in carrying forward dialogue on those and many related development issues.

3. A central challenge was to ensure that globalization benefited everyone, facilitated by an inclusive multilateral system. A broad development framework was needed to address the opportunities, challenges and risks of globalization and multilateralism must be strengthened. The Second Committee must break new ground in forging the links between globalization, poverty eradication and sustainable development. It must consider effective macroeconomic policies to bolster a fragile recovery and ways to galvanize financing for sustainable development. There must be a focus on the challenges of least developed countries and countries in conflict, climate change and preparation for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

Statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development

4. **Ms. Akhtar** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development), speaking on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said that five years after the global economic crisis, most of the developed economies were still on a sluggish recovery path. International capital flows were experiencing heightened volatility. Needed progress on poverty and full employment would be limited in 2013.

5. Poorly coordinated policy measures could generate unintended spillover effects in 2014. Growth recovery and job creation must be privatized. With 2015 just around the corner, strategic work was needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs) and lay the groundwork for the post-2015 development agenda. In his report on a life of dignity for all, the Secretary-General had said that it was necessary to focus on the goals that were most off track, including maternal mortality and water and sanitation; that countries with special development challenges, such as small island developing States, needed sustained attention; and that the needs and rights of the most excluded, for example, persons with disabilities, should receive special attention.

6. The consensus emerging from the deliberations of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals was that the new development agenda should be ambitious yet achievable and should reinforce poverty eradication and sustainable development. The Working Group had highlighted the importance of access to technology to achieve sustainable development, as well as concerns related to climate change, biodiversity, forests, oceans and disaster resilience.

Keynote address by Mr. Raj Chetty, Bloomberg Professor of Economics, Harvard University

7. **Mr. Chetty** (Harvard University) said that new data and methods were changing economic research. The new approach involved data-driven analysis of microeconomic questions and a more precise and scientific approach to macroeconomic policy questions. The changes had been sparked by the increased availability of data such as school test results; tax and social security records on employment and earnings; and public health data. The data could be used to obtain scientific evidence on many key policy questions. Examples from the field of education policy would be given, but the same concepts and methods could be applied to many other issues.

8. A child's performance in kindergarten was highly predictive of performance later in life, including earnings 20 years later and the likelihood of avoiding teen pregnancies, receiving higher education and entering into marriage shortly before the age of 30. Policies to improve school performance could therefore have lasting benefits. A study that had tracked 2.5 million children in a large city in the United States of America over the course of 20 years showed unambiguously that the most effective way to improve school performance was not through increased expenditures or smaller classes, but through improved teacher quality. Teacher quality was easy to measure based on children's test performance.

9. The presence of good teachers in the classroom had lasting impacts decades later. If the worst 5 per cent of teachers were identified and replaced with teachers of average quality, the earnings of each child would increase by \$50,000 over their lifetime, which added up to an impact of \$1.4 million per classroom of 28 students. If teacher quality could be systematically improved, the effects would be vast.

10. Such policy changes were data-driven. The data used had come from developed countries, but the same lessons applied to developing countries. Indeed, it was easier to improve impacts in developing countries. According to one study, carried out in India, merely improving teacher attendance, which was far easier than improving teacher quality, had had significant impacts.

11. In a different policy area, research had shown that a generous social safety net did not have adverse effects on the economy, and that enterprises should be flexible in hiring and firing workers. The combination was very effective at the macroeconomic level. Data had also shown that the most effective way to prepare people for retirement was to make automatic contributions to their retirement accounts on their behalf, thereby improving their well-being at no direct cost to the Government. Data also showed that programmes that subsidized work for people with low incomes were effective in encouraging them to work more and, ultimately, in reducing inequality.

12. Disseminating information, such as a map showing vast differences in economic mobility in different parts of the United States, could play an important role in social change. Making such data available caused people to ask why the place where they lived was not providing good opportunities to children and how that could be changed. Documenting such phenomena could have important social consequences.

13. **Mr. Escalona Ojeda** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) expressed doubts about the value for poor countries of the information provided, given that most of the data and examples had come from the developed world. The developing world faced different problems.

14. Studies in her country had shown that because breastfeeding, which provided sufficient nutrition for the child's development, was widespread in developing countries, human development was more or less equal across social and economic classes in developing

countries up to age two. Until age seven, the differences observed depended not on teacher quality, but on food, health, housing and family environment.

15. Social, economic and political factors were more important; a good or bad teacher did not change much. Income level was only one measure of success, key in societies where there were significant disparities, but less important in societies that strived for equality. Social and cultural factors could vary at the same income level.

16. The presentation did not serve as an example of a road to follow. Latin America was successfully taking a different road by working directly on issues of equality and poverty.

17. **Mr. Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that good teachers alone were not enough to make a difference. Family factors were more important.

18. **Mr. Zato** (Togo) said that successful children who had benefited from good teachers might well depart for developed countries to increase their income. For the study to be universally applicable, that must be taken into account.

19. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin) said that his country participated in the Global Education First Initiative, launched by the Secretary-General.

20. While the study stressed the importance of teacher quality, it seemed to indicate that those who had better opportunities at the outset would be more successful, thereby favouring the reproduction of poverty.

21. He wondered whether the gap in social and economic mobility in the United States was the consequence of a deliberate policy.

22. The greater the difficulties people faced, the greater their determination to overcome them. People left their country because of their desire to achieve. While the study might possibly suggest that there were no quality teachers in poor countries, there was now an attempt to bring back good African teachers who had left for other parts of the world.

23. **Mr. Reyes Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that the academic presentation just delivered was more relevant to the Third Committee than to the Second. Discussion of theoretical ideas could diminish the strength of intergovernmental debate and decision-making in the areas of trade, investment and finance.

24. Important international affairs were evolving in the World Trade Organization, the Bretton Woods institutions and the Group of 20. The General Assembly should also retain its focus on development and global issues. The concern expressed was related not to the quality of the talk but to working methods.

25. **Mr. Meetarbhan** (Mauritius) said that the presentation had been about how data-driven analysis of small-scale issues and scientific evidence could assist in economic policy development and decision-making, issues of concern to the Second Committee. Education had been discussed merely to illustrate a point about decision-making.

26. There were issues of data availability and reliability in developing countries, raising the question of how such data-based research could be carried out there. Collection of data might raise important questions with respect to privacy, especially if such analysis or evidence became a tool for decision-making.

27. **Mr. Chetty** (Harvard University) said that while teachers and education were certainly not the only issues that mattered, there was a well-developed understanding of how to intervene in education. It was harder to give a child new parents than to give it new teachers. While studies showed that improving the quality of teaching had measurable effects, that did not mean that other factors did not matter. But it was a mistake to say that education didn't matter in developing countries.

28. While income was not the only important measure, poverty reduction was a major goal of the United Nations. Good teachers also generated other positive social outcomes, such as reductions in teenage pregnancy and family stability.

29. Brain drain could be reduced through jobs and changes in trade policy, investment and infrastructure that provided well-educated, skilled people with something productive and remunerative to do in their own country.

30. The broader point was indeed not about education but rather that developing data infrastructure was useful for making decisions on trade policy. Theoretical analysis had not always proven correct. The information technology revolution would make it possible to harness big data in developing countries. Cell phones, for example, generated a great deal of

usable data that could be used in important policy decisions. The data was averaged across millions of people, so privacy was not an issue. There was very little to be learned from one particular experience. What was needed was not individual data but statistical averages.

31. The focus should indeed be on major issues such as trade policy, but education was of course relevant to development. A similar approach could be taken on many macroeconomic policy issues. Policy decisions should be based on evidence, not speculation.

General debate

32. **Mr. Thomson** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that follow-up processes to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) were now under way, including the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the process to develop a technology facilitation mechanism. They should be complete by September 2014, and would contribute to intergovernmental negotiations starting in September 2014 and culminating in a meeting of Heads of State and Government in September 2015.

33. The outcome document of the special event to follow-up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals reaffirmed that poverty eradication was the greatest global challenge and called for renewed commitments to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. It reaffirmed the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities that must guide formulation of sustainable development goals and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

34. The High-level Political Forum, which replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development, must address the significant gaps and shortcomings in coordination, cohesion and implementation in the field of sustainable development. The Group of 77 and China supported the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the High-level Political Forum launch a mechanism involving the creation or scaling-up of initiatives to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries ([A/67/348](#)).

35. The Group of 77 and China attached great importance to the follow-up to the Monterrey

Consensus and Doha Declaration in the context of development. The Group called for another follow-up international conference on financing for development to be held before the end of 2015 and the establishment of a financing for development commission under the Economic and Social Council to bridge the gap between policymaking and the implementation of commitments.

36. An enhanced predictable and sustainable flow of official development aid (ODA) was essential to meet regular and new development challenges. ODA had fallen for two consecutive years, and most developed countries were still far from the longstanding goal of mobilizing 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries.

37. The Group of 77 and China had been actively involved in matters related to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. The review stated that the contribution of the United Nations development system was crucial in addressing poverty eradication; capacity-building and development; South-South cooperation; transitions from relief to development; and gender equality and women's empowerment. In that context, the Group welcomed the establishment of an interim coordination mechanism for system-wide evaluation of operational activities for development.

38. Given the seriousness of climate change, the international community was urged to operationalize the Green Climate Fund by early 2014 and scale up the funding target to US\$ 100 billion annually by 2020. Desertification, land degradation and drought were also serious concerns for developing countries. Underscoring the importance of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, he welcomed the outcome of the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to that Convention, held in September in Namibia

39. The Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in December 2013, would provide an opportunity to advance the Doha Round of trade negotiations and break the longstanding impasse. However, the outcome must be balanced, fully respect the development mandate of WTO and take into account the needs and priorities of developing countries. A reformed international financial architecture

was also needed urgently, to play a constructive role in the global development agenda.

40. **Mr. Bart** (Saint Kitts and Nevis), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that, as the Secretary-General had pointed out in his report on the international financial system and development, the problem of sovereign debt distress was most acute among countries in the Caribbean, where several countries had run fiscal deficits or increased their borrowing. In 2013, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis had all sought to restructure portions of their debt.

41. CARICOM urged the international community, including the United Nations development system and the international financial institutions, to adopt a more systematic approach to addressing the development needs of high- and middle-income developing countries by providing them increased access to concessionary financing. Such an approach, incorporating debt relief and the disbursements of grants and loans on concessionary terms not currently available to those countries, would ease the unstable economic situation in which many small, vulnerable and highly indebted countries in the region found themselves.

42. Climate change and a rise in sea levels were major threats to small island developing States, undermining efforts to achieve sustainable development and threatening their survival. CARICOM called for a renewed effort to assist small island developing States in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy.

43. CARICOM countries were negatively affected by supply-side constraints, technical barriers to trade and other systemic and implementation issues. A universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system must be upheld. CARICOM therefore reiterated its call for the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round.

44. An informed discussion of international cooperation on tax matters was urgently needed as part of the dialogue on financing for development. CARICOM welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council to convene annual special meetings on international tax cooperation and welcomed the conversion of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters into an

intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council.

45. **Mr. Kommasith** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that considerable progress in implementing the Almaty Programme of Action over the past decade had contributed to the socioeconomic development and well-being of the landlocked developing countries and to their integration into the regional and global economic system. However, challenges remained, including constraints on reaching global markets; financing gaps; and the need for improved trade facilitation and integration into the world economy. The economies of landlocked developing countries remained vulnerable to external shocks, owing to limited export diversification and productive capacities; lack of export competitiveness; and high transport and trade transaction costs. Climate change, desertification, land degradation and drought compounded those challenges. The comprehensive 10-year Review Conference on the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action was of great importance for all stakeholders, enabling them to consider the special needs and challenges of the relevant countries and develop priorities for a new more comprehensive, action-oriented framework for landlocked developing countries in the next decade.

46. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that disability and international migration had at last received the attention they deserved. However, despite the important issues raised at the sixth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, much remained to be done. ODA, one of the main sources of financing development in developing countries, had declined for two consecutive years. There had also been a decline in assistance to the least developed countries. For the global development agenda to succeed — which meant achieving progress towards the eradication of poverty — the commitments made in Monterrey and at the other United Nations conferences and summits must be urgently fulfilled.

47. Poverty and food security remained the cornerstone of Africa's development agenda. Development of the agricultural sector was central to addressing those issues and to transforming Africa's economy in the long run. Partners were urged to meet their commitments, particularly with regard to the New

Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, so that the target of lifting 50 million people out of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa by 2022 could be met.

48. Three fifths of the countries in Africa were least developed countries, which were extremely vulnerable to external shocks. Those countries and others on the continent must continue to rebuild their fiscal buffers to counter the effects of the global economic slowdown. The international community must also provide support to enable the least developed, landlocked and small island developing States to build their productive capacities, to bring about structural transformation, eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. African countries also needed assistance to strengthen institutional capacity so that they could effectively collect public revenues.

49. Africa, which did virtually nothing to cause climate change, continued to be most affected by it. A major breakthrough at the nineteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol could bring the work of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action to a successful conclusion. Developed countries were also urged to fulfil their commitment of mobilizing \$100 billion per year for the Green Climate Fund by 2020.

50. Infrastructure deficit and harnessing renewable sources of energy were also issues of paramount importance that should be addressed by implementing the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and achieving the three objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, respectively.

51. **Mr. Rodríguez Hernández** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that with two years left until the deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, more than 1.2 billion people were still living in extreme poverty, 870 million were malnourished and 768 million lacked access to clean drinking water. ODA had been unstable and had decreased in real terms, endangering achievement of the MDGs. Developed countries were still far from achieving the longstanding goal of mobilizing 0.7 per cent of their GNP for ODA to developing countries, including 0.15 to 0.20 per cent for the least developed countries. Developed countries must establish clear and

transparent timetables to achieve that goal by 2015 at the latest.

52. Innovative financing mechanisms could help developing countries to mobilize additional resources for development on a stable, predictable and voluntary basis. Such financing should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries without unduly burdening them. It should not be a substitute for traditional sources of development financing, including ODA, nor should it negatively affect their levels.

53. The post-2015 development agenda should emphasize elimination of gaps at the national, regional and international levels as well as the solution of structural problems of developing nations that were exacerbated by the global economic crisis and the effects of climate change and natural disasters. The agenda must be people-centred, taking into account the whole life cycle, and should generate global structural changes to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality.

54. The new development framework must take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect national policies and priorities. It must clearly express the commitment of the developed countries to developing countries and outline goals and indicators for ODA and other forms of North-South cooperation. South-South cooperation should not be a substitute for North-South cooperation. The new development agenda should be responsive to the needs and priorities of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. It should also ensure that the middle-income countries continued to benefit from international cooperation for development. In that connection, CELAC would continue to work towards the establishment of a plan of action for development cooperation with middle-income countries

55. **Mr. Percaya** (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the post-2015 development agenda should bring transformative change, with common but differentiated responsibilities. That change would depend on the extent to which the Millennium Development Goals could be met and achievement of the off-track Goals could be accelerated. The next two years would be crucial for all stakeholders to make efforts on development issues. ASEAN welcomed the

adoption that morning of the outcome document of the special event on the MDGs.

56. ASEAN members had made significant progress towards full achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Some member States had adopted additional goals specific to their own circumstances. However, narrowing the development gaps within the region by addressing poverty remained a significant challenge. The ASEAN road map for the attainment of the MDGs was designed to accelerate that process.

57. More resources should be provided within the framework of Goal 8, development of a global partnership for development, involving all stakeholders in the international community. The Second Committee should work to ensure that Goal 8 contributed to accelerating progress in the time remaining until 2015.

58. The post-2015 development agenda must reflect best practices and lessons learned from the MDGs. The new development agenda should aim to end poverty in all its forms. The importance of an open, transparent and inclusive approach to discussions and outreach, particularly in the intergovernmental process, must be kept in mind.

59. An early conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda and a new climate change regime by 2015 were major goals. The principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities must be honoured in the pursuit of a new climate change regime. While the developed countries should take the lead in reducing emission, countries in the developing world would do their utmost. The establishment in 2015 of the ASEAN Community, consisting of political-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars would be pivotal in sharing lessons learned.

60. **Mr. Vrailas** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, welcomed the adoption of the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It concisely captured key messages on the final push towards achieving the MDGs and on elaboration of the post-2015

development agenda. It included central elements, such as the need for a coherent approach that integrated the three dimensions of sustainable development, and references to peace and security, gender equality, human rights, the rule of law and democratic governance.

61. The European Union had played an active role in establishing the High-level Political Forum and would support its work. The European Union welcomed the recent reform package of the Economic and Social Council and the decision that the High-level Political Forum would meet under the auspices of both the General Assembly and the Council, putting sustainable development at the centre of a better coordinated United Nations system.

62. The European Union accorded the highest priority to ensuring policy coherence and consistency in development and in processes related to democracy, the rule of law, human rights, peace and security, gender equality, empowerment of women, population and development.

63. The post-2015 development agenda should recognize changes in the nature and magnitude of global challenges, their causes and effects and respective capabilities for addressing them. The European Union acknowledged the particular situation and concerns of the most vulnerable countries and stressed the need to support them.

64. The Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration provided a broad policy framework for future discussions on financing for development. However, that framework must be adapted to new circumstances. The distribution of global wealth, the ability of countries to influence global trends and the role of emerging donors had all changed considerably over the past decade. International financing processes and instruments, such as those associated with climate and biodiversity finance, had proliferated. The European Union supported the work of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and was prepared to contribute to the development of a single, integrated financial strategy framework for sustainable development.

65. Innovative financing could complement other resources and had been widely recognized for its contribution to development. The European Union was committed to working on innovative mechanisms for

raising and utilizing resources to ensure predictable financing for sustainable development.

66. Climate change was a central challenge for sustainable development and poverty eradication. Economies must be placed on the path to low-emission development and climate-resilient development, using climate action as a catalyst for sustainable development. A single global, comprehensive and legally binding agreement must be adopted by 2015.

67. **Mr. Zinsou** (Benin), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that despite their difficulties, the least developed countries were working to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action would result in one half of the least developed countries graduating from that status and joining the middle-income countries by 2020.

68. The least developed countries, where 47 per cent of the population lived in extreme poverty, needed assistance from the international community more than ever. As progress towards achieving the MDGs accelerated, the poorest and most vulnerable countries and those that were lagging the furthest behind should receive special attention. MDGs not reached by the 2015 deadline should be incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda.

69. If the commitments adopted by development partners in Istanbul were not met, graduation from least developed country status would be jeopardized for many countries. The least developed countries were greatly concerned by the shrinkage in ODA over the past two years and called on development partners to provide aid which, under the current circumstances, was indispensable. The least developed countries hoped for an intensification and a speedy conclusion to the Doha Round that would provide improved duty-free and quota-free market access.

70. The Group of Least Developed Countries welcomed the steps taken to implement the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), particularly the establishment of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. It also welcomed the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in early October. The Dialogue's analyses and conclusions on rational management of migratory

flows were in line with those of the least developed countries. The pilot project of the International Migrants Remittances Observatory for Least Developed Countries had just been completed, and there were plans to disseminate the results as a document of the General Assembly.

71. Recognizing the importance of domestic resources for financing development, the least developed countries were stepping up efforts to increase the portion of their gross domestic product (GDP) used for investment, so as to encourage sustained economic growth. However, results in that area were hampered by low per capita income, low savings rates and investment, limited tax bases and tax evasion.

72. The least developed countries would greatly appreciate support from partners in the North to strengthen actions to address illicit capital flows and return stolen public funds, which, in some cases, exceeded ODA contributions. Efforts must also be made to reduce the debt of least developed countries and release additional development resources, with particular attention to those circumstances that made the debt burden unmanageable. Mechanisms to aid countries experiencing shocks should be strengthened.

73. A ministerial conference would be held in Cotonou in April 2014 on new partnerships for the development of the productive capacities of the least developed countries. The conference would be a venue for discussion on galvanizing South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in productive capacity-building for the least developed countries. In that spirit, the least developed countries and the Government of Norway had organized a high-level special event on the importance of energy for economic growth.

74. **Ms. Daniel** (Nauru), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that fresh water, oceans, coastal marine environments, arable land, air and climate were under increasingly severe pressure. Climate change was one of the greatest challenges of the day. It particularly undermined the ability of least developed countries and small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals. It threatened the viability and survival of nations.

75. Despite progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, more than a billion people lived in

extreme poverty; income inequality continued to rise; and unsustainable production and consumption patterns had resulted in huge social and economic costs that had already endangered life on the planet. International actions to address climate change were grossly inadequate. Global greenhouse gas emissions continued to rise at a distressing rate, indicating the need to address climate change as a crosscutting and persistent crisis. Sustainable development must specifically address the needs of vulnerable countries with unique challenges.

76. Small island developing States needed assistance from the international community to overcome their challenges. Development partners were urged to fulfil their commitments by providing timely, predictable financial and technical support to ensure successful implementation of internationally agreed development outcomes.

77. The development agenda should link the outcomes of Rio+20, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and a new financing strategy. National sustainable development priorities and the global development agenda must be linked in a strategy that would genuinely transform economies and lives in an efficient, effective, equitable and inclusive manner.

78. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that the economy had not improved since the previous session of the General Assembly, and the environment had deteriorated. The concentration of greenhouse gases in the air was higher than it had ever been in human history. The consequences for civilization would be devastating, unless carbon dioxide emissions were rapidly curtailed. The current global agenda was inadequate to the new and emerging challenges facing the world.

79. The main task of the Second Committee would be to follow up on Rio+20 and other major summits and conference outcomes on economic and social issues. Malaysia welcomed the recently concluded first meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the special event on the MDGs, as well as the decision to convene the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa in April 2014.

80. The Second Committee should place greater emphasis on addressing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Those aspects should be reintegrated. Sustainable

development goals should be coherent with the post-2015 development agenda and in line with what developing countries wanted to achieve. The formulation and implementation of the sustainable development goals must fully respect all the Rio+20 principles. With regard to climate change, full implementation of the outcome of the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention, held in Doha, including adoption of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, would be crucial.

81. The fragility of the global economic and financial situation in the eurozone and the United States and the recent contagion risk affecting emerging economies were cause for concern. The financial crises in the developed nations threatened to lead to another recession, with adverse impacts on the rest of the world, and especially on smaller economies. International financial regulation, monitoring and supervision must be strengthened, and effective fiscal measures urgently implemented.

82. South-South cooperation was a vital element of international development cooperation. It was essential for national and collective self-reliance, helping to ensure the integration and participation of developing countries in the world economy. South-South cooperation should be viewed as a complement to North-South cooperation, not as a substitute for traditional cooperation.

83. **Mr. Mackay** (Belarus) said that the new High-level Political Forum should become a genuine forum for discussion and non-discriminatory decisions on strategic development questions. Ways should be found to make global partnerships operate more effectively in the service of sustainable development. Such partnerships were needed in a number of areas, including poverty eradication and establishment of a long-term energy agenda for the United Nations.

84. Noting an increased focus on middle-income countries in recent times, he said that a regional conference on the topic in Minsk and other events had highlighted the need for a comprehensive view of the problems and situation of such countries with regard to sustainable development. Coordinated assistance should be provided to middle-income countries, as their development experience and potential could encourage other categories of countries, especially the least developed countries, to achieve higher indicators. All

development stakeholders would benefit from such an approach.

85. The strategic planning process of the operational arms of the United Nations for the period from 2014 to 2017 was oriented towards concrete results. A reduction of regular resources and the increasing needs for targeted assistance to programme countries pointed to the need for an expanded donor base. As the operational arms of the United Nations shifted to new funding models, assistance to certain countries should not suffer. All international development commitments should be unswervingly met. A drop in overall resources did not justify cuts in funding. To avoid discrimination, the needs of programme countries and the volume of funding that was needed should be more carefully evaluated. That required strong institutional underpinnings, particularly with reference to the Economic and Social Council. The Council and the new High-level Political Forum should coordinate international efforts to implement Rio+20 outcomes and shape the post-2015 development agenda.

86. **Mr. Dabbashi** (Libya) said that the international community must join forces to ensure that all States could fulfil their aspirations and realize the MDGs. Poverty eradication remained a priority in many States, and that situation was unlikely to change before the target date of 2015. The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference had set out a clear plan towards sustainable development, which must now be translated into tangible actions. Poverty eradication remained the greatest challenge, and the multiplicity of actors, including the private sector and civil society, created additional complexity. In order to be capable of concerted action, the international community should bring the Doha Round of trade negotiations to a successful completion and take measures to bridge the digital divide and facilitate technology transfer.

87. In his own country, sustainable development would require security and political stability. Libya was therefore working to achieve genuine national reconciliation and put in place a new constitution. Climate change was also a threat; agricultural productivity, food security, water resources, health, demographics and biodiversity were all affected. His Government stood prepared to work with all stakeholders in order to counteract that situation. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change remained the main forum for international action. Another valuable instrument was the United

Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, whose secretariat needed international support in order to assist affected countries.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.