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Chair: Mr. Diallo (Senegal)

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

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Llorenty Soliz** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the multiple crises besetting the world had their origins in a capitalist model built on clientelism and consumerism that was further widening the gap between rich and poor and despoiling the Earth. A new international economic order was needed, based on equity, common interests, national sovereignty, solidarity and harmony with nature. The post-2015 development agenda must be predicated on those principles, as well as on the notion of common but differentiated responsibilities and on a diversity of development models and visions. Developing countries must play their part in creating a financial system effectively geared to the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable development. He called for an end to all forms of financial colonialism steered by international financial bodies which used debt as a means of blackmail or as a means of imposing policies ill-adapted to national realities.

2. South-South cooperation could make an important contribution to national and collective self-sufficiency and thereby complement North-South cooperation, without being a substitute for it. It remained essential for developing countries to honour their commitment to earmark 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance (ODA) for developing countries and increase it to between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent for the least developed. Middle-income countries like Bolivia were still in need of international cooperation. His delegation was therefore concerned to see that efforts to overcome the most serious scourges, including hunger, disease and lack of access to education and water, remained minimal; joint efforts must be made to frame sustainable goals to address those challenges. Food security and food sovereignty were key issues, particularly in the context of climate change, and were crucial for the paradigm of living well, developed by his country. The Plurinational State of Bolivia had reservations about the pursuit of a green economy based on mercantilism and privatization: under the banner of living well, it had significantly reduced poverty and redistributed wealth while at the same time respecting the harmony of the natural world. He invited all countries to look to that paradigm as an alternative to capitalism.

3. **Mr. Ndour** (Senegal) said that, since 2008, the increasingly dysfunctional nature of the international economic order had adversely affected the economic performance of most of the developing countries and reduced their hopes of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. It was therefore all the more necessary to adopt a new development model, supported by more appropriate strategies. The concept of sustainable development assumed its full significance in that context and had accordingly commanded important decisions, in particular those set out in the Rio+20 outcome document: that new dynamic must be maintained and the resulting new structures must be made operational. However, the building of a future guided by that vision depended on a shared understanding of the need for a more sustained fight against poverty; that called for greater investments in agriculture and energy and, above all, in infrastructure to galvanize trade and investment.

4. It was essential in that context to continue and indeed step up efforts to reconcile the short-term needs of communities with environmental protection, through sustainable land, forest and waste management and appropriate water policies. That also required resolute attention to the implementation of the agreements on climate change, greater cooperation in concluding a new global agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol and a concerted drive to achieve the internationally agreed goals concerning biological diversity, desertification and disaster preparedness. Senegal, for its part, particularly concerned about the gradual degradation of forest ecosystems, was actively involved in efforts to set up an international fund for forests; it also strongly supported the adoption of a legally binding instrument on all types of forests.

5. The global economic and financial architecture should be reformed through improved representation of States in decision-making bodies and better credit and financing conditions; mechanisms also needed to be put in place for greater transparency in international transactions, including in the mining industry, and for the absorption of the deficit incurred in that area.

6. With the 2015 horizon looming, priority should be given to attaining the MDGs through the mobilization of the necessary resources. Thereafter, achievements would need to be consolidated and shortcomings overcome within the framework of a renewed and integrated multilateral system. The

proposed sustainable development goals offered a promising way forward by building on the MDGs.

7. In conclusion, he emphasized the importance of the upcoming preparations for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, particularly in view of the need to address population issues by integrating them into development processes and strategies.

8. **Ms. Bajaña** (Nicaragua) said that Rio+20, while serving to reaffirm the international community's political will and establish real commitments, would not be sufficient without a new global economic architecture that would promote social inclusion, equality, compassion and harmony with nature, with full regard for biological diversity. The main challenge facing the world was the eradication of poverty, which was a precondition for sustainable development and must also go hand in hand with gender equality and the empowerment of women.

9. Her delegation welcomed a number of related initiatives, notably the establishment of a High-level Political Forum to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development, which should be marked by universality and transparency and, while benefiting from the participation of non-governmental actors, lead through intergovernmental negotiations to consensus-based decision-making. It was essential in that connection to launch an intergovernmental process to put in place the post-2015 agenda with sustainable development goals updating the MDGs. In that process, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must be safeguarded and the necessary funding must be provided, over and above the 0.7 per cent of gross national product set for ODA.

10. It was a matter of deep concern that the global economic situation was worsening, particularly in view of its continuing impact on the poorest members of the international community, with still no collective agreement on international remedies. In order to eradicate poverty and hunger, there must be a new model of society, no longer based on the exploitation of the many by the few. In Latin America and the Caribbean, a new society was being built, characterized by fraternity and solidarity and based on equitable trading of commodities, resources and livestock so as to ensure equitable social development for all.

11. Looking ahead to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change, she called on developed countries to assume their historical responsibility to meet that challenge, in particular through the adoption of a legally binding instrument further to the Kyoto Protocol.

12. **Ms. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) referred to the priority areas of water, energy and land proposed in the Rio+20 outcome document for the sustainable development goals and said that other concerns must also be taken into account, since there could be no progress towards sustainable development without the lasting recovery of the international economy and a sound global trade and investment climate. It was to be hoped that the ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) would serve to take forward the ongoing negotiations towards a global trade deal. The recently established High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development could also be expected to make a significant contribution but it must be provided with sufficient resources and support from the international community.

13. Efforts to achieve sustainable development could, however, be undermined by climate change. Jordan, for its part, intended to become a party to the new legally binding global agreement on climate change, subject to its incorporation of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

14. **Mr. Kim Un Chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the necessary collective effort to create a peaceful environment for sustainable development should be pursued on the basis of respect for each nation's sovereign rights. Such respect could also provide a basis for fair and sound international economic relations: the use or threatened use of force and sanctions violated the right of States to determine their own development and thus jeopardized global peace and security. His delegation urged that sanctions imposed by countries against an individual country in the name of the United Nations should be condemned and rejected outright.

15. The primary concern should be to reform the existing international economic structure, the unfairness of which made it impossible for any country to achieve sustainable development. The guiding principles should be realism and practicality; the aim should be to build a new international economic system based on justice and equality. The proposed sustainable development goals should reflect the different

development levels and realities of States and follow through on unfulfilled development goals, such as poverty eradication. His Government would harness all its resources and energies to economic construction and improved living standards while actively pursuing a sustainable development process led by the United Nations in a peaceful and stable environment.

16. **Mr. Wang Min** (China) said that, after a period of profound disruption from which it was just beginning to recover, the global economy was still suffering from insufficient dynamism and uneven growth. The major economies were faced with structural challenges, making it necessary for them to ensure quality coordination at the macroeconomic level; as for the emerging economies, they were hampered by slow growth and increased external risks, together with a decline in ODA from developed countries. It was therefore clear that the all-round recovery of the world economy would be a protracted process.

17. Global economic growth required the development of all countries. It followed that the international community must no longer view development cooperation in purely strategic terms but must revitalize the entire development agenda; the United Nations had a leadership role to play in that regard. The General Assembly should give priority to enhanced global governance for the creation of an enabling growth environment: that would require Governments around the world to be more active in developing macroeconomic policies and working together to shape a world economic order based on innovation, growth linkage and integration. At the same time, the international financial architecture must be reformed to give greater representation to emerging markets and developing countries, ensure tighter regulation of global financial markets and establish a stable and resilient monetary system. Steps should also be taken to cultivate an open-ended, market-based economic model by reducing trade protectionism and establishing a non-discriminatory multilateral trade regime. In addition, ways must be found of improving global investment tools for more efficient resource allocation and better channelling of international capital flows.

18. Developing countries should enjoy further debt relief and receive prioritized financial assistance in an equitable, open and orderly international economic environment. The post-2015 development agenda must be marked by a spirit of mutual trust and guided by the

principles of diversification, common but differentiated responsibilities and universality. Developed countries must honour their commitments to supporting developing countries which, for their part, should continue to strengthen South-South cooperation. His delegation favoured a results-based approach to development and recommended that follow-up processes be put in place to remedy shortfalls in the achievement of international development goals.

19. China was currently engaged in the crucial process of transforming and upgrading its economy, which rested on good foundations and was showing steady growth following an economic downturn. The Government had ceased to view gross domestic product as an indicator of growth and was more concerned with improving the quality and efficacy of growth. It had adopted innovative policies which integrated short-term and long-term objectives and, through a focus on greater market dynamism, had made China one of the prime drivers of global economic growth. All its indicators were within a reasonable range; the recent slowdown had been a result of proactive regulation. China could be expected to continue to make an increasingly important contribution to the growth and health of the world economy and hoped that the international community would provide it with a better cooperative framework. It remained ready to deepen South-South cooperation and share with other developing countries its experience in poverty reduction and development with a view to contributing to global economic recovery.

20. **Mr. Izizaren** (Morocco) said that progress towards the attainment of the MDGs, while real, remained insufficient and uneven between and within countries. More than one billion people in the world lived in extreme poverty. African countries, in particular, were still lagging behind, particularly in matters of health: African women were a hundred times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than women in developed countries. Moreover, most of the targets relating to Goal 8 of the MDGs, developing a global partnership for development, were far from being achieved. ODA, which was the most important source of financing for the poorest of the developing countries, had decreased in 2012 for the second consecutive year and represented only 0.29 per cent of the combined gross national product of donor countries, as compared with the 0.7 per cent objective.

21. Considering that international trade was an important engine of growth and development, his delegation looked forward to the successful conclusion of the Doha Round. The success of the post-2015 agenda would depend on a renewed and strengthened global partnership for development and sound means of implementation. It should integrate in a coordinated manner the three pillars of sustainable development, consistent with the overarching objective of poverty eradication. National ownership must be central to any such agenda, which must be responsive to the different needs and priorities of States. Other challenges to be addressed in that connection included employment, particularly among the young, better education, improved infrastructure, promotion of productive investment and enhanced market access for developing countries. While South-South cooperation was contributing significantly to the development efforts of developing countries, on the basis of national ownership and equal partnership, it was still no substitute for North-South cooperation.

22. **Mr. Le Hoai Trung** (Viet Nam), noting the many development challenges resulting from slowed global economic growth, macroeconomic instability, overexploitation of natural resources and pollution, said that no country could tackle them alone and that Governments had no choice but to seek a different, more sustainable and more equitable growth model. It fell to the United Nations to play a more effective role in facilitating and coordinating international responses to those challenges. Viet Nam was well on its way to achieving the MDGs, to which it attached profound importance as a means of lifting people out of poverty, improving their lives and contributing to the overall socioeconomic development of each nation.

23. His delegation considered sustainable development to be at the core of the new development agenda and welcomed the establishment of the High-level Political Forum to provide political leadership and guidance. His country would continue to contribute to the crafting of sustainable development goals and would support every effort to create a favourable international economic, trade and financial environment in the interests of equitable, inclusive economic growth. The new agenda must be intergovernmental and ensure the accountability of Governments, which would have primary responsibility for its implementation; it must also be

guided by the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

24. Lastly, he shared the concern about the continuing decline in ODA and called on all partners to ensure an improved, predictable and sustainable flow of financial resources for development.

25. **Ms. Amarasinghe** (Sri Lanka) said that, for there to be a single, coherent post-2015 development agenda that would follow on from the MDGs while meeting the challenges of the future, a large number of multilateral processes needed to converge. Such an agenda must be intergovernmental and seek to balance economic growth with environmental responsibility. Moreover, it was essential for developed countries to assume their responsibilities for the damage they had inflicted on the environment.

26. The socioeconomic achievements of Sri Lanka were the result of people-centric policies. Notwithstanding its own domestic challenges and the repercussions of the global food, energy and financial crises, his country ranked high in the human development index; it had long recognized the crucial role of women in political leadership; it would achieve the goal of universal primary education by 2015; it had drastically reduced unemployment; and its infant mortality rate was on a par with many affluent countries. Sri Lanka understood the importance of the MDGs and believed that there should be no let-up in efforts to achieve them. It joined in the calls for reforms in the international financial institutions to enable them to accommodate emerging global development challenges, which would be met only through a fair international economic order. Other key areas for the future were partnerships for development and South-South cooperation.

27. A transparent, rules-based system led by WTO could facilitate the integration of developing countries into the global multilateral trading system and thereby help them to achieve their development goals. His delegation was particularly mindful of the needs of middle-income countries; their large workforce and agricultural and industrial capabilities were valuable assets as well as potentially volatile challenges.

28. For many countries, increased investment in human resources development was a great challenge in the current context. Sri Lanka was fully aware of that need and had therefore become a leading advocate of the interests of youth: the proposal by its President that

the United Nations should proclaim an International Skills Day was inspired by that concern. He called for support for that initiative.

29. **Mr. Donoghue** (Ireland) stressed the key role to be played by the United Nations in helping countries to achieve their development goals, in particular the MDGs, and said that the eradication of global poverty and hunger was the single greatest challenge facing the international community. It was at the heart of Ireland's foreign policy. However, hunger could not be eradicated without addressing climate change, which was having a devastating effect in small island developing States and large parts of Africa. A strong emphasis on agriculture was needed, with particular attention to the empowerment of grassroots practitioners.

30. The principles of equality, inclusion and human rights, including the rights of women, must underpin sustainable development goals; the empowerment of women and girls was not only a goal in itself, but also a key means of implementation. Increased financial resources for development were also an essential requirement.

31. Despite budgetary difficulties, Ireland had upheld its commitment to overseas development cooperation; it believed that genuine, lasting partnerships were the way to tackle the challenges to sustainable development in the most vulnerable countries. The goal should be a United Nations development system delivering as one and driving the necessary institutional architecture for the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

32. **Mr. Elisaia** (Samoa) said that there could be no sustainable development without the balanced integration of social, economic and environmental concerns. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the High-level Political Forum, which would be called on to review and further advance global commitments to sustainable development, with particular attention to the challenges facing small island developing States, such as Samoa. In view of the particular vulnerabilities of those States to climate change, 2014 had been proclaimed the International Year of Small Island Developing States; it was hoped that the international conference on those States, to be held in September 2014 would serve as a platform for their aspirations to achieve sustainable development. Samoa called on Member States to support swift

finalization of the modalities resolution for that conference and to contribute to its financing through the trust fund set up for the purpose.

33. Climate change could indeed lead to the extinction of some low-lying Pacific island countries as sovereign States. The causes had been identified, the solutions were known, but the necessary action continued to be delayed because of vested national interests. Since there could be no sustainable development for small island developing States unless the root causes and impacts of climate change were addressed, he called on Member States to ensure that the convention currently being negotiated on the subject allayed the mounting fears of countries like his own.

34. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that his country had already framed its national post-2015 development agenda strategy and was determined to contribute substantially to the shaping of future global priorities. The substantial progress that Bangladesh had made towards the MDGs still fell short of its aspirations, while most of the least developed and post-conflict countries were in need of an accelerated approach to achieve targets; post-2015 development goals should be built on successful MDGs. The least developed countries, the bulk of whose populations lived below the poverty level, were yet to see the fulfilment of the promises made to them. His delegation urged duty-free, quota-free access to international markets for all the products of those countries.

35. The recent decline in ODA should be an important concern to the Committee, as unmet commitments could jeopardize the development plans of the poorer countries. The issue of migration also needed to be considered by the Committee, particularly in the context of financing for development, with a focus on reducing the cost of remittances and guaranteeing the rights of migrants. Lastly, climate change adaptation required direct and easy access to finance and technology. His delegation therefore called on developed countries as well as the fast-growing developing countries to take significant steps to address that global challenge.

36. **Ms. Chigiya** (Micronesia), noting that the Committee was to define the modalities of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, said that her delegation looked forward to the adoption of solid measures to ensure the best possible

outcome. Micronesia also hoped that the challenges facing those States would be a central focus of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Climate change, in particular, as the survival issue of the era, needed to be included in the post-2015 development agenda. The comprehensive treaty on the subject, planned for adoption in 2015, must embody legally binding commitments and reflect a far higher level of ambition than under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Continued phasing down of hydrofluorocarbons under the Montreal Protocol would create momentum for significant action on climate change in the future. Micronesia, for its part, had already taken a number of measures in support of an environmentally sound energy policy and was planning further ambitious action on that front, with the assistance of development partners. Moreover, technical assistance, as a component of ODA, was crucial, particularly in the form of appropriate technology transfers and capacity-building initiatives. She called on major donor States to honour their commitment to earmark 0.7 per cent of gross national income for such assistance by 2015.

37. **Mr. Guerber** (Switzerland) said that, notwithstanding the progress achieved in several areas, the post-2015 agenda needed to be even more ambitious than the MDGs in order to provide support for the most disadvantaged and meet the expectations of billions of people. It must take a holistic approach to sustainable development and have universal application, taking into account different national and regional capacities and realities.

38. The new High-level Political Forum should strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development and ensure that related questions were central to the concerns of States and more prominent within the United Nations system. Accordingly, it needed a robust review mechanism; it was also crucial that it promote system-wide coherence and coordination of United Nations sustainable development policies. Much depended on the efficiency of the United Nations system for development, to which a welcome contribution had been made by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review; that basic tool for oversight would enable the system to adjust to the new context, challenges and opportunities through the introduction of the necessary reforms and improvements.

39. **Ms. Turk** (Lebanon) said that her country, like many others, was still far from fully achieving the MDGs by 2015 and that a smooth transition to the post-2015 development agenda was therefore crucial. Measures to achieve greater energy efficiency and combat climate change were important contributions to the creation of a sustainable economy and were accordingly being put in place by Lebanon, which was particularly mindful of the type of growth to be sought. Strong and sustainable economic growth depended on effective management of natural resources and the empowerment of agents for change. Smart investments were essential, in education and social safeguards, as well as in research and development and knowledge-sharing platforms.

40. Special support was required to meet the development needs of people in conflict and post-conflict situations and under occupation, who were thereby prevented from enjoying the basic human rights needed to grow, progress and develop. She referred to the hardships suffered by the Palestinian people at the hands of Israel and by her own people through spillovers from the Syrian conflict; according to a World Bank report, that conflict could reduce gross national product growth by 2.9 per cent yearly, push some 170,000 Lebanese into poverty and double the unemployment rate to above 22 per cent. Lebanon was also continuing to suffer from the consequences of the Israeli air strike on its coast in July 2006; calls for Israeli compensation to her country had gone unheeded.

41. **Mr. Warraich** (Pakistan) raised the question whether, in the previous five years, an appropriate approach had been taken to efforts to revive the global economy. Decision-making in limited groupings would not provide solutions to the problems of an interconnected, interdependent and globalizing world. The United Nations offered the proper setting for finding such solutions, through the increased participation of developing countries, in the name of equity rather than on the basis of economic weight: although not responsible for the current crisis, those countries had suffered the most from it. The post-2015 development agenda should be designed to help them achieve the necessary economic transformation towards sustainability without compromising the imperative of economic growth.

42. Pakistan was doing everything possible at the domestic level to overcome the consequences of the

world financial and economic crisis but, globally, it needed a level playing field and a supportive environment. It looked forward to the overdue conclusion of the Doha Round and the beginning of real work to lay the foundations of a structured mechanism for sovereign debt restructuring, with priority attention to debt relief for countries not covered by current initiatives.

43. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile) said that the barriers to trade and investment imposed in the wake of the financial and economic crisis had blocked a major source of development for countries and that all forms of trade protectionism needed to be eliminated. The next WTO Ministerial Meeting would offer a welcome opportunity to strengthen the international trading system. Chile, for its part, had recently agreed to the duty-free, quota-free import of products from the least developed countries. Indeed, international trade had an essential part to play in ensuring food security, which could be most effectively achieved through poverty reduction, strengthening of growth and consolidation of political and social stability.

44. The post-2015 agenda should maintain the holistic approach of the Monterrey Consensus and incorporate the MDGs; it should be formulated through an intergovernmental process, which would begin in September 2014. It would also need to address the crosscutting issue of disaster risk reduction, since it had become clear that progress towards development was jeopardized when it did not go hand in hand with strategies to increase disaster preparedness. He noted the growing preoccupation with the effects of climate change, particularly among small island developing States, and expressed support for their forthcoming third International Conference.

45. As a middle-income country, Chile was concerned that, under new rules, the principal United Nations development programmes might well cease to operate in such countries within a few years; that would substantially impair the principle of universality of the United Nations development system. Within that system, his country supported South-South cooperation, which complemented North-South cooperation while not being a substitute for it. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, which should contribute to a consolidated process of financing for development shaping and giving effect to the post-2015 development agenda.

46. **Mr. Escalona Ojeda** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, in a time marked by an overriding desire for easy profits, the necessary investments were not being made to create jobs, eradicate poverty and hunger, fight climate change, desertification and biodiversity degradation and transfer science and technology; basic products were at the mercy of financial speculators; new forms of colonization were under way, characterized by fighting over the natural resources of the South; and devastation was increasingly being wreaked by climate change.

47. The financing of sustainable development must not serve to increase the profits of big money. Receiving countries should not agree to conditions that violated their sovereignty or impaired their autonomy, creating new forms of subordination whereby the economic surpluses of the South were used to drive the development of the countries of the North. There was a need for new initiatives, like the Alba Bank and the Bank of the South, which would break with the monopoly of credit and would include regulation of financial flows to restore banks to their traditional role as intermediaries between savings and investment for the production of goods and services and bring about the reform of the Bretton Woods institutions.

48. Current patterns of consumption and production were unsustainable and rested on the spoliation of natural resources and ecosystems for the benefit of a minority. The overall aim of the post-2015 development agenda should be the eradication of poverty as a precondition for sustainable development; the agenda should be shaped by the countries of the South and by the poor in the countries of the North; it should be guided by the basic principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

49. **Mr. Çevik** (Turkey) said that the crafting of the post-2015 development agenda would be one of the key priorities of his country's presidency of the Group of 20 in 2015; he had every hope that the High-level Political Forum and the reformed Economic and Social Council would facilitate the achievement of a consensus in that regard.

50. The continuing impact of the global economic and financial crisis required concerted efforts by the international community to create an environment for increasing production, trade and investment and opening up the job market. Those challenges were heaviest for the least developed countries, particularly

landlocked and small island States, which had benefited least from globalization but had suffered most from its adverse effects. Turkey remained committed to supporting their development efforts and had offered to host the mid-term review conference of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which was an important tool for them. Furthermore, his country believed that enhanced cooperation in science, technology and innovation would be particularly beneficial for developing countries and stood ready to host a technology bank that had been proposed for the purpose, under the auspices of the United Nations.

51. All countries needed to contribute to a credible response to climate change and there should be increased international efforts to reduce global emissions on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, without prejudice to sustainable development initiatives.

52. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador) said that the ongoing global financial and economic crisis had adversely affected the capacity of many developing countries to achieve the MDGs. International solidarity and cooperation were required to establish a common framework for trade and technology transfer to address the crisis, stimulate recovery and build more inclusive societies; there was also a need for increased resources for such priority areas as education, healthcare, energy and infrastructure. He stressed the importance of culture as an agglutinative factor in the development of an approach geared to local realities.

53. The greatest challenge currently facing the world was the eradication of poverty. El Salvador, for its part, was taking significant steps in that direction on the basis of a multidimensional approach, embracing not only income but also health, education, employment and housing. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should underpin the crafting of sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

54. His delegation continued to support the reform of the structures of global economic governance, including the international financial and monetary architecture, in order to ensure more effective and better coordinated management of global challenges. In particular, greater representation and participation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods institutions would be essential in strengthening their legitimacy and effectiveness. It was also important to include in

the post-2015 agenda a comprehensive, long-term approach to the problems of migrant populations, with particular attention to their human rights. Noting with concern that the crisis had caused a decline in ODA and also affected assistance to middle-income countries, he said that increased cooperation with such countries would be beneficial not only in fighting poverty but also in advancing development and social inclusion. South-South cooperation was an essential complement to but not a substitute for North-South cooperation.

55. The international community should support immediate measures to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and reduce disaster risk in order to save human life and prevent material damage and help vulnerable countries to progress towards sustainable development.

56. **Mr. Tham Borg Tsien** (Singapore) said that macroeconomic policy questions and sustainable development were interlinked, as would become clear in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. Singapore understood from its own experience the close nexus between poverty eradication and sustainable development and strongly advocated that, in the crafting of that agenda, full weight should be given to sustainable urban management and the intertwined issues of water and sanitation. Moreover, the macroeconomic topics to be discussed by the Committee were directly relevant to the agenda as they offered a means of supporting its implementation. His delegation urged the Committee to do more to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of its working methods.

57. **Mr. Mashkoor** (Iraq) said that the global financial and economic crises had highlighted the role and responsibilities of individual States in the contemporary world: they must have the possibility to take the decisions needed to address inflation and unemployment and relaunch their economies. The Rio+20 outcome document provided guidance for the reform of a global international financial and economic system that suffered from structural imbalances. Lessons must be drawn from past crises, including in matters of climate change, which also affected social and economic life. His country looked forward to the successful completion by 2015 of the preparations for a legally binding convention on the subject that would take into account the specific realities of developing countries and incorporate the principle of common but

differentiated responsibilities. Efforts were also needed to improve the mechanisms of the Global Environment Trust Fund so as more effectively to protect biological diversity and strengthen ecosystems.

58. More generally, the interdependence of international multilateral institutions affected the approach to be taken to global crises and, similarly, sustainable development worldwide required the solution of issues facing the developing countries. Official development assistance was therefore all the more important, as was the promotion of trade with those countries. Multilateralism must be underpinned by legally binding rules in order to ensure a predictable and stable environment.

59. Iraq was on its way to becoming a member of WTO, after having observer status since 2004. It was accordingly seeking to bring its trade laws into line with international norms, in keeping with its resolve to open up trade and contribute to sustainable development. His Government looked to its international trade partners for advice and support for projects aimed at developing its competitive edge, improving its export structures and strengthening its economy.

60. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply to remarks made previously by the representative of Israel ([A/C.4/68/SR.4](#), para. 44), said that the representative of Israel had uttered lies about his country with the sole aim of politicizing the work of the Committee. As an occupying power, Israel continued to prevent the Palestinian people from enjoying independence and to violate the Syrian people's sovereignty over its natural resources, in breach of United Nations resolutions. In addition, it was fomenting violence in Syria by providing weapons and assistance to the rebel groups.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.