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Chair: Ms. Rebedea (Vice-Chair)..... (Romania)

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In the absence of Mr. Diallo (Senegal), Ms. Rebedea (Romania) Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/68/183)

(b) Women in development (A/68/271)

(c) Human resources development (A/68/228)

1. **Ms. Mlambo-Nguka** (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on women in development (A/68/271), said that women were central to development and that investment in women reduced poverty in all its dimensions. The focus of the report was on decent work for women, women's unpaid care work and social protection for women, which were crucial for gender equality, women's empowerment and for inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth, and had important multiplier effects across a spectrum of development goals.

2. Decent work involved opportunities for work that delivered a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families. It also gave workers the freedom to organize and participate in the decisions affecting their lives. However, significant gender inequalities persisted in women's access to decent work, including women's disproportionate representation in informal and insecure employment, discrimination and unequal pay.

3. Turning to unpaid care work, she noted with satisfaction that, in the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, unpaid care work had been positioned as a major human rights issue. Women provided the majority of unpaid care work, including taking care of family members and the household chores, which limited their ability to participate equally in education, employment and social and political life, and made it difficult for them to earn an income commensurate with that of men. Although such unpaid care work contributed to well-being, social development and economic growth, it often went unrecognized and was undervalued, even by policymakers.

4. Approximately 80 per cent of the world population lacked social protection, including social insurance and social assistance programmes. The economic crisis had highlighted the need for broad-based social protection measures to reduce poverty and vulnerability, and as a countercyclical measure. However, social assistance programmes should not be seen as a substitute for State investment in public service, but as one component of a comprehensive system of social security and services.

5. Although more women were in paid work, they were disproportionately represented in informal and insecure employment. Moreover, the economic and financial crisis had increased the burden of women's unpaid care work, exacerbating existing gender inequalities. Investment in social protection measures was crucial, not only to mitigate the effects of the economic crisis, but also to promote a robust, sustained recovery and sustainable livelihoods.

6. The report outlined the encouraging efforts of Member States to promote decent work and social protection for women, including vocational and skills training, enhanced access to resources, and measures to reduce the burden of unpaid care work. However, more needed to be done with regard to minimum wage legislation, and to eliminate discriminatory wage practices and promote public work programmes. Satellite accounts should be used to determine the value of women's unpaid care work to the economy. The development of a universal, comprehensive and gender-responsive social protection system complemented by accessible, quality social services would be equally important.

7. **Ms. Akhtar** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development) introducing the report of the Secretary-General's on human resources development (A/68/228), said that science, technological knowledge and innovation were key drivers of economic growth and could provide a new means of addressing long-standing human resources development challenges. However, there had to be a sufficient number of skilled practitioners to manage innovation-led development, as well as adequate infrastructure and institutional, regulatory and market capacity.

8. Science, technology, innovation and human resources development systems should be well integrated into national development strategies driven by considerations of competitiveness and the need to

address barriers to human development. Science, technology and innovation strategies and systems should support the development of a flexible pool of skilled staff that included women, young people and other disadvantaged groups; the provision of educational opportunities in those fields was therefore critical. All relevant stakeholders should be involved in strengthening capacities in the area of science, technological knowledge and innovation. Governments should be tasked with establishing adequate infrastructure, institutions, policies and incentives to promote science, technology and innovation; the private sector must play a critical role in promoting a culture of innovation and learning.

9. The international community had the responsibility of making existing technology-based solutions accessible to developing countries. International cooperation could facilitate the dissemination of knowledge that could, in turn, help to develop human resources and ensure that existing technologies were tailored to local circumstances. Noting the importance of adequate human resource capabilities for development, she said that the right set of human resource development strategies and policies was essential for countries to achieve sustainable economic growth and social progress.

10. **Ms. Bas** (Director for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) ([A/68/183](#)), said that although the proportion of people living in poverty had reached new lows in all six developing regions, in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, the poverty target remained unmet. It seemed, however, that the 2015 target for reducing hunger would be achievable.

11. The theme of the Second Decade, namely “Full employment and decent work for all” was particularly appropriate, as joblessness and underemployment, often combined with a lack of basic social protection, remained key challenges to poverty eradication. Other challenges included inequality, particularly in terms of access to basic social services, and vulnerability to the impact of environmental threats. Curbing the impact of climate change would also be critical.

12. The report noted that, in order to overcome such challenges, Governments should develop and implement

policies that created social and economic opportunity and sustainable solutions to employment creation, inequality and economic instability. Diversified growth was also critical, and particular attention must be given to such issues as agricultural and rural development, bolstered by efficiently managed social protection schemes and effective public spending on human development.

13. The report also outlined some of the activities of United Nations entities in implementing the system-wide Plan of Action for the Second Decade, such as cooperation with Governments and civil society to build capacity for measuring and understanding poverty and for developing poverty reduction policies and programmes.

14. All delegations were invited to attend the event to be held later that day to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The theme of the 2013 event was “Working together towards a world without discrimination: Building on the experience and knowledge of people living in extreme poverty” and it had been organized jointly by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Movement ATD Fourth World, and the Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Poverty, a non-governmental organization (NGO).

15. **Mr. Daunivalu** (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that although success had been achieved in the global reduction of extreme poverty, progress was uneven. In some countries, the number of people still living in poverty continued to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of those most affected. Moreover, the challenge of eradicating poverty in many developing countries was compounded by the recent financial crisis.

16. Member States should ensure that, as requested in the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system ([A/RES/67/226](#)), organizations of the United Nations development system should assign the highest priority to poverty eradication. The eradication of poverty should therefore remain at the core of the post-2015 development agenda, and relevant policies and development efforts should take into account the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development at the national and international levels. The Group of 77 and China called

for the establishment of a supportive and fair financial architecture and international trading system, as well as for a genuine strengthened global partnership for sustainable development that would complement the efforts of national Governments in developing countries. The scaling up of international cooperation efforts should include the fulfilment of internationally agreed official development assistance (ODA) commitments, debt relief, market access, capacity-building and technical support.

17. Noting that employment and decent work were key drivers of poverty reduction, he said that the structural labour market challenges faced by developing countries were very different to those of developed countries. The majority of workers in developing countries were in vulnerable employment, trapped in jobs with low incomes and lacking basic social protection. Youth unemployment rates were high and women had to grapple with unemployment, discriminatory wage practices, exploitation and sexual harassment. Governments must take action to level the playing field by promoting decent work for all, and strengthening labour market regulations and social legislation.

18. Comprehensive approaches to human resources development were also essential and investment priorities in that regard should include education, information and communications technology (ICTs), capacity-building, health and sustainable development. Although the primary responsibility for defining and implementing appropriate human resources development policies rested with Governments, the international community, the private sector and civil society must continue to support the national efforts of developing countries, including in the implementation of national human resources development strategies. The mobilization of financial resources, capacity-building, technical assistance, transfer of technology and expertise would be crucial to that end.

19. **Mr. Landveld** (Suriname), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the eradication of poverty and hunger should remain a central focus of the post-2015 development agenda. Noting that sustainable agriculture and rural development were vital to reducing poverty and hunger, he drew attention to the Caribbean Regional Policy for Food Nutrition and Security (policy framework 2011-2015), which had been developed with support from the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and sought to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty, including through the progressive realization of the right to adequate food. An emphasis on agriculture would counter rising food prices, promote consumption of food produced in the region, and reverse the region's high incidence of chronic non-communicable diseases. He called on the international community to provide new and additional resources to help developing countries respond efficiently to the challenges of food security, and reaffirmed the importance of strategies for South-South cooperation in that regard.

20. Highlighting the serious risk of environmental threats to poverty reduction, he said that because of their high vulnerability to climate change effects, many members of the Caribbean Community were already undertaking adaptation measures that placed an additional burden on limited budgets. They therefore looked forward to the Green Climate Fund becoming operational.

21. The greatest weapon of the poor against poverty was their ability to work. While the number of working poor continued to decline, the majority of workers in developing countries remained trapped in low-income jobs and lacked basic social protection. Increased attention should be given to improving the social integration of those working in the informal economy. Skills training, greater access to basic social services, including health and education, would help to break the cycle of poverty. To promote the development of micro-business and small and medium-sized enterprises, smallholders and entrepreneurs should have easier access to credit, resources and markets.

22. He stressed the need for a strengthened global partnership for development, taking into account national priorities, and for an open and fair trading system, access to technology, and debt relief and debt restructuring for developing countries.

23. With the exception of Haiti, all States in the region had been classified as middle-income countries based on arbitrary criteria such as per capita income. Such criteria should be adjusted to take the region's natural vulnerabilities into account.

24. Lastly, given that employment, decent work and social protection should be more prominent in the post-2015 development agenda, priority should be given to implementing the system-wide Plan of Action for the Second Decade. Across the United Nations

system, efforts should continue to focus on supporting the Social Protection Floor Initiative and pro-poor investment in human capital, job creation and economic growth. CARICOM welcomed the technical assistance provided to countries in the region by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and hoped they would consider region-wide approaches in their programming.

25. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that although enormous progress had been made with regard to the reduction of poverty globally, not all regions had enjoyed the same success. Noting that the number of people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa had risen steadily between 1990 and 2010, he said that special attention should be given to Africa in the run-up to the 2015 target date and in formulating the post-2015 development agenda. The impact of climate change on agricultural productivity was yet another reason that the international community should focus greater attention on Africa.

26. Poverty eradication also hinged on a strong global partnership, the achievement of the other Millennium Development Goals and increased investment in agriculture, the backbone of many African economies. And without infrastructure development and industrialization, it would not be possible to eliminate poverty.

27. Increased investment in education, support for small and medium-sized enterprises and the expansion of manufacturing and agro-business would be necessary to combat unemployment in Africa, particularly among young people. He called on the international community to provide assistance in those areas, and to scale up its efforts to implement a universal, comprehensive and gender-responsive social protection programme to address the needs of women and improve their employment situation.

28. **Mr. Neo** (Singapore), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that despite robust economic growth in Asia, disparities and increasing inequalities were still prevalent in the region. Poverty eradication was essential for sustainable development, but would be achieved only if individuals were given the means to provide for their own needs and empowered to achieve economic advancement. Financing, although important, was only one aspect of

development assistance and a tool to encourage self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

29. Aware of the close link between poverty eradication and rural development, ASEAN had adopted a participatory approach to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of community empowerment programmes. Steps would be taken to promote the sharing of information on multisectoral strategies and programmes for individuals, families and communities in the areas of microfinance, vocational and entrepreneurship skills, women's empowerment, farming techniques and education for poor children. The organization had also adopted a Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2011-2015), which focused on sustainable rural development and economic growth, food security and food sovereignty amid climate change, social protection and safety nets, development of infrastructure and human resources in rural areas, constituency-building for rural development and poverty eradication, and monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction in the region.

30. Lastly, he called on the developed countries to meet their ODA commitments and highlighted the role of cooperation, through regional institutions and initiatives, in helping to lift people out of poverty.

31. **Mr. Eshanta** (Libya) said that least developed countries continued to rely on food imports and international assistance owing to limited production capacities. Falling levels of official development assistance (ODA) and the impasse in trade negotiations had hampered the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Steps should be taken at the national and international level to tackle unemployment and promote decent work for all with a view to achieving sustained growth and sustainable development.

32. The empowerment of women was vital for economic growth, development and poverty eradication. Efforts must be made to integrate women fully into the formal economy; education of women and children was a key tool in that regard and would help to reduce inequalities between men and women, improve the health of children and curb demographic growth.

33. In an age of rapid technological change, developing countries should work with the developed world to mainstream technology and human resource development into their national programmes. States

should also reach understandings regarding the brain drain, which hindered technological progress in the developing world.

34. **Mr. Grima** (Malta) said that his delegation welcomed the commitments undertaken at the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It was concerned that despite the progress made in reducing global poverty and hunger, significant disparities between regions and countries remained. A common approach and a variety of actions were necessary in order to tackle the multifaceted issue of poverty eradication, which must remain a priority for the international community after 2015. Peace and stability were essential to that end.

35. Stressing that efforts to help poorer countries to achieve higher levels of economic growth and welfare were beneficial to all, he said that Malta would continue to favour free and open markets that supported global economic expansion. His country honoured its commitments in the area of climate change, and encouraged developing countries to continue to invest in preventing environmental degradation that could undo years of painstaking economic development.

36. Turning to financing for development, he said that new funding sources were required in order to achieve future goals. His country welcomed the initiatives of the United Nations and World Bank concerning international agreements for the transfer of funds and technical assistance from developed to developing countries. It would continue to provide resources for the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, in the conviction that empowerment, social integration, full employment and decent work for all were vital.

37. **Mr. Khitchadeth** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that, despite the considerable progress made in eradicating poverty, disparities in income distribution had widened. Moreover, serious challenges such as climate change, natural disasters and pandemic diseases continued to pose additional major constraints on vulnerable countries.

38. His Government was strongly committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with a view to eradicating poverty; all the Goals and targets had been incorporated into national social and economic development plans. Major progress had been made on a number of targets, including with respect to

universal primary education, gender-parity at all levels of education and the reduction in the under-five mortality rate, but challenges remained with respect to nutrition, stunting, primary school dropout rate and maternal mortality. Furthermore, in an attempt to address one of the main causes of poverty, his Government had adopted a country-specific Goal, namely, to reduce the impact of unexploded ordnance (UXO); however, much remained to be done in clearing contaminated land and assist victims. The Lao People's Democratic Republic was seeking further cooperation and support from all development partners with a view to achieving national development objectives and graduating from least developed country status by 2020. Lastly, he called upon the United Nations to strengthen system-wide coordination at country level to ensure that financial resources were utilized more effectively and in accordance with national priorities for poverty eradication.

39. **Mr. Sareer** (Maldives) said that it was alarming that, although the target of reducing extreme poverty rates by half had been met five years before the 2015 deadline, 1.2 billion people continued to live in extreme poverty, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

40. His country had already achieved five of the eight MDGs with the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day having fallen from above 25 per cent in 2000 to 8 per cent in 2010. However, despite its successes, the Maldives continued to suffer from disadvantages associated with small island economies, such as a narrow economic base, remoteness and environmental fragility. Moreover, because of its unique geographical situation and economic dependence on coral reefs and the seas and the cost of protecting its coastline from erosion, climate change had an adverse impact on the development aspirations of his country. Other challenges included overdependence on tourism, and reliance on imports of essential goods and basic consumables, which had aggravated persistent balance-of-payments issues, particularly since the onset of the financial crisis. Also of concern was access to donor and private finance, and limited opportunities to integrate into global value chains and benefit from the multilateral trading environment. The Maldives needed the assistance in order to diversify its economic base, improve competitiveness and make its economic activities green and resilient.

41. As part of its reform programme to address growing unemployment and the lack of diversity in economic activities, his Government had initiated a nationwide micro, small and medium-sized enterprise development project. Recognizing the importance of women's participation for sustainable development, he said that special consideration was given to applications to the enterprise development project from women, particularly since the unemployment rate for women was nearly double that of men.

42. Although the Maldives had eradicated extreme poverty, relative poverty and income disparities were increasing. A new class of urban poor had been created, consisting of those who lived on slightly more than \$1.25 per day but remained extremely poor and were not sufficiently represented in the existing indicators. The new global development agenda must include indicators that measured poverty in relative, as well as absolute, terms and must address new challenges such as the urban poor and slum dwellers.

43. **Mr. Krishnasswamy** (India) said that, despite the progress already made, poverty eradication should remain the central and overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda. That agenda must promote rapid, sustained and inclusive economic growth in developing countries as well as targeted interventions to promote education, maternal and infant health and gender empowerment, and combat hunger and nutrition. Also critical was action to build infrastructure, create productive and full employment, and promote universal energy access, agricultural growth and rural development. Pursuant to the call in General Assembly resolution 67/226, the United Nations development system should assign the highest priority to poverty eradication. Action to build a supportive international environment and a fair international economic structure conducive to development was also essential.

44. Noting that a key reason for the failure to meet many of the MDGs was the weakness of the global partnership for development, he trusted that development partners' support for the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty would be accompanied by a greater desire to honour long-standing commitments, including with respect to ODA, debt relief and market access. Finally, he called for greater collaboration in the area of environmentally-friendly technologies and technology transfer.

45. **Ms. Chen Yingzhu** (China) said that poverty eradication was the shared responsibility of the international community. Developed countries should honour their ODA commitments, and provide capacity-building and technical assistance; the United Nations and international organizations should make tangible efforts to promote cooperation and accelerate the implementation of the MDGs; and developing countries should incorporate poverty reduction strategies into their national economic and social development plans and make every effort to promote economic growth.

46. Poverty eradication should remain at the core of the post-2015 development agenda and appropriate targets should be set. Steps should be taken to promote enhanced coordination of macroeconomic policy and improve global economic governance with a view to creating a favourable external environment for the development of developing countries. In addition to continued North-South cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation should be deepened.

47. Since 1978, China had been implementing large-scale poverty reduction policy and had succeeded in lifting more than 200 million people out of extreme poverty. However, it still faced huge challenges to improving the livelihood of its people given the fact that, according to international standards, approximately 100 million Chinese still lived below the poverty line. Her country would remain focused on poverty eradication for development and on the continued implementation of its poverty eradication programme for 2011-2020. At the same time, it would continue its efforts, within the framework of South-South cooperation, to assist other developing countries in their poverty eradication efforts.

48. **Mr. Aldrees** (Saudi Arabia) said that poverty eradication was a moral responsibility that must be addressed through collective effort from the international community. His Government attached the utmost importance to supporting poverty eradication and development efforts in both developing and least developed countries. To that end, it had provided substantial financial assistance for bilateral cooperation and development projects as well as support to numerous United Nations agencies and international institutions. Mindful of the impact of disease on poorer societies, it had contributed \$18 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the period 2007-2010, in addition to a previous donation of \$10 million.

49. With its focus on health and education, his country was at the forefront of efforts to achieve the MDGs. It attached achieved its objectives in respect of globalization, the private sector and the empowerment of civil society. It had taken action to enable women to contribute to economic development by fostering gender equality, opening membership of the Shura Council to women and allowing them to take part in municipal elections. Saudi Arabia considered that development would not be attained without respect for human rights, compliance with international law and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

50. **Mr. Becher** (Israel) said that, although the target of reducing extreme poverty rates by half had been achieved five years early, much remained to be done; it was unacceptable that more than 2 billion people around the world continued to live on less than \$2 per day.

51. His country was committed to breaking the cycle of poverty and was sharing its solutions and technological innovations with the world, including through the work of its Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV). The introduction of low-pressure, low-cost drip irrigation systems developed by an Israeli company had led to a 140 per cent increase in harvested yield and a 200 per cent increase in income among farmers in a Kenyan village. Another innovation that would be useful in arid climates was a drought-tolerant gene that could be inserted into market-ready vegetable seeds. And an Israeli doctor had addressed high maternal mortality rates in Vanuatu with the introduction of an ultrasound device.

52. Israel recognized the importance and positive impact of women's empowerment and placed special emphasis on women in its development work. Women must be given the tools to enable them to prosper and the freedom to make their own decisions about reproduction.

53. **Ms. Mørch Smith** (Norway) said that there was ample evidence to show that countries where women played an equal and active part in political and economic life performed better on most indicators, including with respect to economic growth and sustainable development. Noting that the MDGs did not address effectively the underlying structural causes of gender inequality, she said that a stand-alone goal relating to gender equality should be included in the post-2015 development agenda and gender equality

should be integrated into all development goals using targets and indicators. In that connection, her delegation supported the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report on women in development (A/68/271, section IX). The new development framework must be based on human rights and recognize the sexual and reproductive rights of all human beings, including women and girls.

54. The development needs of the least developed countries were a priority in Norway's multilateral and bilateral development cooperation. In its capacity as co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy for All, Norway had recently participated in the high-level event on sustainable energy for the least developed countries, organized by Benin. South-South cooperation was an important mechanism for achieving progress. Her country engaged in South-South and triangular cooperation in many countries.

55. **Ms. Tancharoenpol** (Thailand) said that poverty eradication should remain a priority within the context of the achievement of the MDGs and the overarching goal in the post-2015 development agenda. Thailand had placed social protection and human security at the centre of its national development policy and implemented a number of safety net programmes to assist vulnerable groups. The universal health care coverage programme under which patients paid \$1 per doctor's visit provided greater access to affordable health care and essential medicines. In addition, a rights-based population policy was being implemented at all levels to promote access to education, public health care and sexual and reproductive health services. Other areas of importance for growth and poverty eradication included sustainable agriculture, full employment and decent work for all, promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and investment in infrastructure. Recognizing the important link between poverty eradication and gender equality, her country had set up a development fund for women to promote the advancement of women.

56. Lastly, given the importance of science, technological knowledge, innovation and ICTs, she said that steps were being taken in Thailand to address the digital divide and create a digital environment more conducive to growth at the national, regional and international level. Her delegation hoped that the 2013 Connect Asia-Pacific Summit and Telecom World 2013 of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU),

to be held in Bangkok in November, would contribute to that end.

57. **Mr. Mashabane** (South Africa) said that, although tangible progress had been made in eradicating poverty since the adoption of the MDGs, much remained to be done. Accordingly, South Africa welcomed the emerging consensus regarding the need to prioritize poverty eradication both up to and beyond 2015 with a view to achieving sustainable development. Noting with concern the continuing disparities among regions and the fact that sub-Saharan African was unlikely to meet its development aspirations in the near future, he said that the international community should translate partnerships with Africa into tangible programmes to eradicate poverty in the twenty-first century.

58. South Africa agreed that poverty was a multidimensional phenomenon. His Government was giving priority attention to the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment, and recognized the need to invest in quality education and support efforts to stop the brain drain.

59. New and emerging challenges to poverty eradication efforts, such as the volatility of global markets, energy prices and food insecurity, required a collective response and consolidated development cooperation to assist the global South, particularly Africa. Noting the detrimental effect of climate change on the efforts of developing countries to tackle poverty and hunger, he reiterated the importance of investment in adaptation to increase resilience and prevent loss of biodiversity. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should prevail in the formulation of the future development agenda. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's full support for the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty.

60. **Mr. Silberberg** (Germany) said that the persistence of inequalities, including gender inequalities, continued to jeopardize progress towards poverty eradication and social stability. Other challenges included the need to overcome hunger and malnutrition, improve social security systems, create decent job opportunities and support sustainable production and consumption models. Noting that his country promoted the development and expansion of social protection systems as well as green and inclusive development and growth, he said that multidimensional

poverty reduction was a key aspect of German development cooperation.

61. Lastly, noting the need for a more nuanced, multidimensional and intuitive approach to poverty measurement, he said that any progress towards poverty eradication and the achievement of sustainable development would be meaningless without action to address issues of peace and security, promote good governance and the rule of law and ensure the respect of human rights for all.

62. **Ms. Yeo** (Singapore) said that since its independence 48 years previously, Singapore had worked hard, with the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations agencies, to become a safe and prosperous country. In its national development strategy, Singapore attached great importance to education as a tool for poverty eradication and social mobility, with every child in her country having access to education, regardless of socioeconomic status or gender. Her Government also invested in education and training programmes for professional development, and social security was available to assist citizens in need. Home ownership was strongly encouraged with subsidies for low-income families enabling the majority of citizens to own their homes. While citizens were encouraged to save for medical needs through the Central Provident Fund and voluntary insurance schemes, subsidies of up to 80 per cent of the total bill for public hospital care were provided to ensure that health care remained accessible to all.

63. National poverty eradication efforts could be strengthened with assistance from regional and international partners, including the exchange of best practices, mobilization of resources and creation of new economic opportunities. For its part, her country would continue to provide technical assistance to other developing countries through the Singapore Cooperation Programme.

64. **Mr. Achergui** (Morocco) said that the international community must take action to help the most fragile countries break the vicious cycle of extreme poverty and vulnerability, and develop appropriate multisectoral strategies to reduce poverty and promote sustained economic growth. Morocco had made great strides in poverty eradication in recent years with some 5 million people benefiting from the first phase of its national human development

initiative. The aim of the second phase, launched in 2011, was to consolidate gains, create stable jobs and improve the quality of life of the population by building human capacity, improving the education system and providing universal access to medical coverage and social security.

65. Positive progress in the fight against poverty risked being undermined by the effects of the global economic crisis, conflict and climate change. The Second Decade, which stressed the importance of mobilizing development resources, sustained economic growth and full and decent work for all, represented a real opportunity to consolidate gains and progress. However, resources must be mobilized to promote inclusive and sustained growth and investment, particularly in social sectors.

66. His country, which would continue to give priority to meeting internationally agreed objectives for poverty eradication, considered that the post-2015 development agenda should focus on the three pillars of sustainable development. South-South cooperation should be strengthened in the fight against poverty and against the backdrop of the economic and financial crisis.

67. **Mr. Lima** (Cape Verde) said that much needed to be done to reverse declining international resource flows, and secure adequate, sustainable and predictable financial resources for the eradication of poverty. Donor countries should support national efforts to that end and developed countries should honour their ODA commitments.

68. Poverty eradication was an important element of his country's development agenda. Indicators showed that poverty in Cape Verde had been reduced by half; the challenge was to ensure that the considerable progress made was not undermined by the global economic situation. Although Cape Verde had graduated to the middle-income category and was on track to meet almost all the MDGs, it still faced high levels of poverty, particularly in rural areas, inequality and unemployment. The Third Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper being developed sought to promote the mobilization of funds, inclusive economic growth and redistributive policies.

69. Lastly, it was imperative that issues relating to the malfunctioning of the global financial system were addressed in a decisive manner.

70. **Mr. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that the post-2015 development agenda should centre on the eradication of extreme poverty. Full and decent work for all was critical to eradicate poverty, as were the improvement of agricultural productivity, social protection and food security, particularly in poor rural communities. Noting the importance of the empowerment of women, he said that efforts must be made to eliminate gender inequalities and discriminatory practices against women. Much progress had already been made in improving the conditions and role of women in Qatar by promoting education and schooling and reducing gender inequalities, and his country was committed to continuing its efforts in that regard, including through its National Vision 2030.

71. **Mr. Momita** (Japan) said that, at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), held in June, Japan had announced that it would be contributing approximately \$32 billion over the next five years to support growth in Africa. As stressed in the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, poverty eradication was a matter of the highest priority and should be a central objective of the post-2015 development agenda. To achieve that goal, various development actors would need to address such issues as the lack of decent employment, health care, education, social exclusion, and climate change and natural disasters.

72. Aware of the importance of gender equality for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development, he said that, over the next three years, Japan would be providing more than \$3 billion in ODA to promote women's participation in society, protection in situations of conflict, empowerment and health care. It was also committed to sharing its knowledge and technologies with the international community, and to fostering an environment more conducive to sustainable development.

73. **Mr. da Cruz** (Angola) said that the eradication of poverty was the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly in the least developed countries and countries in sub-Saharan Africa. His Government recognized the importance of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for poverty eradication and had undertaken a variety of programmes aimed at generating employment and at meeting challenges in numerous fields. Outlining some of the steps taken, he

said that educational reform measures had been implemented with satisfactory results since 2006; as part of the national strategy for food security, various activities had been carried out with FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development to decrease food imports; a one-stop shop to foster entrepreneurship had been created, granting microcredit and promoting job creation; and the national health for all programme had led to the construction of hospitals, notably in rural and peri-urban areas. The census to be carried out in 2014 would facilitate the sustained implementation of the various programmes.

74. Angola supported the international community's efforts to combat extreme hunger and poverty and called upon the developed countries to meet their commitments, including with respect to ODA and implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.