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### Summary record of the 29th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 5 November 2013, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Diallo ..... (Senegal)  
*later:* Ms. Rebedea (Vice-Chair) ..... (Romania)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.*

#### **Statement by the President of the General Assembly**

1. **Mr. Ashe** (Antigua and Barbuda), President of the General Assembly, said that the post-2015 development agenda would be built upon the two core goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication. The Committee was well placed to identify how to accelerate efforts to translate the vision articulated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) into reality and it was expected to provide policy guidance in support of the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Its discussions on the post-2015 development agenda could strengthen the economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, to supplement the necessary focus on the social dimension brought by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Committee had an important role to play in guiding the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.

2. Financial resources were essential for the effective implementation of development goals. While official development assistance (ODA) remained critical, it must be supplemented by new and innovative sources of financing; in addition, South-South cooperation must be further enhanced as a complement to North-South and triangular cooperation. Sustained economic growth required a universal, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system and, accordingly, a successful conclusion to the Doha Round of talks. The specific needs and challenges of small island developing States would be receiving special attention in the following year and must be an important part of the post-2015 development agenda. He encouraged the Committee to maintain a constructive and consensual spirit and pledged his full support for its work.

**Agenda item 19: Sustainable development** (*continued*) (A/68/79-E/2013/69, A/68/258, A/68/278, A/68/308, A/68/309, A/68/383, A/68/544; A/C.2/68/3 and A/C.2/68/5)

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- (i) **Sustainable mountain development** (*continued*) (A/68/307)
- (j) **The role of the international community in the prevention of the radiation threat in Central Asia** (*continued*) (A/68/143/Rev.1)

3. **Mr. Al-Sada** (Qatar) said that sustainable development required a sustainable environment. Qatar was particularly attentive to environmental needs and had enacted legislation to reduce carbon emissions and develop clean technology; it was well above the global parameters for biodiversity. Despite the shortage of safe water in the country all its people were fully provided with fresh water. Desertification, land degradation and drought were global challenges that militated against sustainable development for all. Accordingly, he called on all Member States to ratify the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Qatar was mindful of the importance of energy issues for the post-2015 development agenda and, in particular, of the nexus between energy, water, food and sustainable development. Partnerships between the public and private sectors were critical. His delegation looked to the High-level Political Forum as a framework for the crafting of the post-2015

development agenda; the latter should reflect the Rio+20 outcome document and be underpinned by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

4. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) welcomed the various processes aimed at giving effect to the decisions embodied in the outcome document of Rio+20, adding that Jamaica would continue to participate actively therein. Those developments were essential to advancing the full and effective integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and constituted key building blocks for the elaboration of a post-2015 development agenda. The outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals was pivotal in that regard. As a small island developing State, Jamaica fully supported the inclusion of the concerns of such States in the sustainable development agenda and it urged all delegations to work constructively to lay the groundwork for the preparation of the upcoming Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. His delegation looked forward to working with all Member States to ensure that the conference produced an outcome that would assist such States in building resilience and achieving sustainable development.

5. His delegation considered disaster risk reduction to be a key developmental issue and intended to participate actively in the development of a post-2015 framework to succeed the Hyogo Framework for Action. Mindful also of the magnitude of the challenges posed by climate change, it looked forward to the upcoming climate change conference and to the Climate Summit in 2014 as key steps in arriving at a comprehensive climate change agreement in 2015.

6. **Mr. Piminov** (Russian Federation) said that the fulfilment of the MDGs in all countries remained a short-term priority: multilateral partnerships among Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, must be translated into enhanced practical action. The Russian Federation actively participated as an observer in the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and counted on its continuing transparency and openness. The United Nations Secretariat should also play an important role in shaping those goals in view of its substantial expertise in the field of sustainable development and its experience in guiding intergovernmental processes.

7. His Government remained attached to collective international efforts to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and looked forward to the establishment of a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol, which could be effective only if it applied to all major emitters of greenhouse gases. He reiterated the position of the Russian Federation that the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol was not in line with the subject and scope of article 3, paragraph 9, of that Protocol. In environmental matters, the United Nations Environment Programme had a major role to play in ensuring system-wide coordination of action to enhance countries' own problem-solving capacities. The Russian Federation also remained attached to the internationally agreed goal of providing small island developing States with comprehensive assistance for their sustainable development; it had accordingly decided to contribute \$500,000 to the trust fund for the international conference to be held in Samoa in 2014. Lastly, his delegation welcomed the establishment of the High-level Political Forum which, by strengthening institutional frameworks for multilateral cooperation for sustainable development, was meeting a key concern and made further discussion on the issue unnecessary.

8. **Mr. Silva** (Sri Lanka) said that disaster risk reduction needed to be a central thrust of sustainable development policies, entailing proper environmental and infrastructure management, while addressing issues of climate change and human mobility. Sri Lanka was particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, as exemplified by the 2004 tsunami, from which it had drawn painful lessons. It had adopted a number of important institutional measures for disaster management and had put in place — and was continuing to develop — appropriate management and protection plans. It had launched a series of public awareness campaigns, including training programmes for government officers and civil and volunteer groups and disaster preparedness programmes for schools. Other measures included the establishment of early warning towers, enhanced radio communication systems, health hazard management plans and substantial investments in mitigation projects.

9. Disaster risk reduction must go hand in hand with action to address climate change through a global agreement, to be sought through the incorporation of both concerns in the post-2015 development agenda. Sri Lanka looked to the High-level Political Forum to

help lead the way towards the crafting of a long-term, focused, forward-looking, action-oriented document to follow up on the Hyogo Framework for Action. In view of the increased risk of losses resulting from disasters, his Government urged all Member States and other stakeholders to commit themselves fully to the process of risk reduction and resilience building.

10. **Ms. El Koulaib** (Kuwait) said that her country was making a consistent effort to advance ever more surely towards development. It had adopted measures to promote gender equality, empower women and integrate youth in its development policies and was investing generally in human capital: some 25 per cent of its oil revenue was placed in a reserve fund for future generations. Although Kuwait was itself classified as a developing country, it was a leading provider of assistance to least developed and other developing countries, through such initiatives as the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development. It was about to host the third Afro-Arab Summit on the theme of partners in development and investment, which was expected to deepen Arab-African cooperation and usher in new prospects for all concerned.

11. In a world still reeling from successive crises and faced with increased poverty and unemployment, it remained important not to relegate the challenges of environmental degradation and climate change to the background. Small developing island States, in particular, were vulnerable to natural disasters, which were obstacles to their economic and social development. A balance needed to be struck between efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and assistance in avoiding such obstacles through resilience building.

12. **Mr. Mawe** (Ireland) said that while great progress had been made through efforts to achieve the MDGs, much remained to be done to complete that process and prepare a successor framework. The aim must be to free the world from poverty and hunger and at the same time address the entire range of sustainable development issues. Ireland welcomed the establishment of the High-level Political Forum and the expanded membership of the Governing Council — renamed the Environment Assembly — of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The universal nature of those two bodies reflected a shared responsibility for tackling the challenges. Together with the reformed Economic and Social Council, they would provide

crucial input to guide the decision-making of the international community.

13. Ireland would continue to work within the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to advance the principles of equality, inclusion and fundamental human rights. The Working Group, in continuing its effective review of the critical issues facing the world, would need to hold frank and in-depth discussions; it could thereby be expected to reach agreement on a unified set of clear and measurable global goals. Ireland also looked forward to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States which, through its focus on genuine and durable partnerships, could make innovative and lasting impacts that would further other processes.

14. **Mr. Al Khalil Seck** (Senegal) said that sustainable development would remain out of reach unless greater attention was given to the balanced integration of its economic, social and environmental dimensions. The search for realistic political options must go hand in hand with the full implementation of the decisions contained in the Rio+20 outcome document. His delegation welcomed the institutional follow-up processes already established and looked forward to their becoming fully operational. It nevertheless remained essential to focus efforts on achieving the MDGs; sustainable development goals should follow on from them, retaining their positive aspects and remedying their shortcomings within the framework of a renewed multilateral system.

15. Priority must be given to environmental issues through mitigation of the effects of climate change and the promotion of sustainable patterns of production and consumption. In that spirit, Senegal had taken a large number of measures to establish biosphere reserves, regenerate the soil and combat land salinization; those efforts needed to be supported by the full implementation of the commitments made under the Rio Conventions, particularly as they related to the Green Climate Fund, the transfer of ecologically rational technologies and mechanisms for combating deforestation. Climate change was a major factor in the recurring natural disasters, which were being combated through a more active risk prevention and management strategy. His delegation recognized the importance of the full implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and looked forward to the development of a new framework extending beyond 2015.

16. **Ms. Robl** (United States of America) said that the global aim of the international community and of the United States was to reduce poverty, hunger and disease while protecting the planet and its natural resources. The institutional and programmatic reform of UNEP was an essential part of that process. UNEP needed to improve the coordination of environmental activities by making the Environment Assembly a truly international forum that could call on experts as well as government officials to discuss the most pressing environmental issues. Her delegation was looking forward to the Warsaw Climate Change Conference as an opportunity to advance the shared objective of putting in place an ambitious climate change agreement for adoption in 2015.

17. To promote innovation and investment in education and technology, a number of initiatives were worth exploring. One was the “Global Innovation through Science and Technology” initiative developed by the United States, which brought new ideas into the marketplace through the individual mentoring of young entrepreneurs. Many other initiatives existed or were being developed to promote the use of green technologies, some under the auspices of the United Nations. For least developed countries, the technology bank concept merited consideration. The promotion and dissemination of ideas and technology required an enabling environment, which itself presupposed the protection of intellectual property. Innovation could be stifled if Governments did not support the free and open exchange of ideas or reward risk-taking through the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

18. Disaster risk reduction needed to be integrated into sustainable development and poverty eradication policies and actions at all levels. The post-Hyogo Framework for Action should encourage the active participation of a broad range of civil society actors, including vulnerable persons, disproportionately affected by natural disasters. A further area of keen interest to the United States was the health and viability of the world’s oceans, on which a significant proportion of many economies and jobs depended worldwide. Her delegation was looking forward to receiving the findings of the first Global Ocean Assessment, due in 2014, and the outcome of the Conference on Small Island Developing States; the latter, should be focused, implementable and action-oriented.

19. **Ms. Rebedea** (Romania), *Vice-Chair*, took the *Chair*.

20. **Ms. Garros** (Monaco) said that it was essential for the parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change to agree on a new universal legal instrument by 2015. For the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, Monaco had reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by more than 8 per cent. It had also put in place a programme designed to meet 20 per cent of its energy needs from renewable energy sources and reduce energy consumption in buildings by 20 per cent by 2020. Management of the natural heritage was a further priority of the Government, encompassing not only the preservation of marine and terrestrial biodiversity, but also water resource management, environmental protection and pollution control.

21. Noting that 2014 would be the International Year of Family Farming, she said that the inclusion of women in social and technological innovation strategies was essential for sustainable agricultural development. She also pledged her country’s full support for the International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which should serve to focus international solidarity on those States, in view of their particular vulnerability to climate change, and also on oceans. Oceans were directly or indirectly dependent on the three pillars of sustainable development and must be duly taken into account in the post-2015 development agenda.

22. **Mr. Naanda** (Namibia) said that sustainable and balanced global growth would require close coordination of macroeconomic policy with other areas of global governance. Climate change was among the greatest global challenges facing humanity; developing countries suffered most from its adverse effects. His Government had made climate change adaptation a priority while making every effort to integrate sustainability into its development plans. However, climate change was a global problem and required a global response. Namibia looked to the High-level Political Forum to show leadership and contribute to the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; it should complement the functions of other United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and follow up on the Rio+20 commitments.

23. Land degradation presented an acute challenge to people’s livelihoods; his country had been proactively

combating desertification since the 1990s, guided by the Convention to Combat Desertification. The eleventh Conference of the Parties, which it had hosted, had made progress in establishing a science-policy interface which would facilitate a much-needed science-policy dialogue. The Convention also served as Namibia's action plan for achieving land-degradation neutrality by 2030 and it was having an impact on the ground around the world. Desertification, land degradation and drought must continue to be an important part of the post-2015 development agenda. He invited Member States to join the newly formed group of friends on the subject in order to maintain the momentum generated around those issues by Rio+20.

24. **Mr. Aisi** (Papua New Guinea), speaking on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, said that the key to a sustainable and secure collective future lay in the building of inclusive and lasting cooperative partnerships among Member States and all other stakeholders. While the MDGs had boosted development efforts they would remain unfinished business so long as millions of people continued to live in poverty. A renewal of effort and commitment was needed in order to ensure a smooth and effective transition to a post-2015 development agenda that would leave no one behind; donors must meet commitments and efforts on the ground must remain aligned with national development priorities.

25. The High-level Political Forum would provide welcome leadership towards sustainable development, provided that its work responded to the development aspirations and challenges of all groups of countries and was shaped by inclusive country-led consultative processes underpinned by the principle of common but differentiated approaches. The importance of national ownership of the sustainable development agenda could not be overemphasized. The upcoming Conference would offer the international community an opportunity to support the long-held aspirations of small island developing States. Partnerships needed to be forged that would really affect the lives of their communities through capacity-building, institution-strengthening, technology transfer and the introduction of best practices to reinforce their sustainable development efforts and help them to achieve lasting resilience.

26. The Pacific small island developing States were uniquely dependent on the oceans and they therefore called on the international community to give priority

to protecting and restoring the health, productivity and resilience of oceans, including through measures to address the effects of climate change, such as increased ocean acidification. Their very survival required locally-driven climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, supported by development partners; only with adequate additional and predictable financial resources could they effectively meet that challenge. Disaster risk mitigation measures were also a necessity and included, besides preparedness training, reforestation, crop diversification and infrastructure consolidation. There, too, donor support was sought. In addition, development partners were asked to help promote renewable energy, notably through the Pacific Regional Data Repository for Sustainable Energy for All. Given the necessary political commitment, support and resources, resilient small island developing States would become beacons of hope rather than a burden to the international community.

27. **Ms. Tancharoenpol** (Thailand) said that future development must be driven by the imperative of sustainability, which entailed not only economic growth but also social inclusiveness and environmental protection. Her delegation looked to the High-level Political Forum to help generate among Member States the political will needed to ensure the success of sustainable development. As a member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Thailand hoped that those goals would include a universal and comprehensive goal on water, encompassing access to clean drinking water and sanitation, resilience to water-related disasters, integrated water resource management and international cooperation; a goal concerning health, particularly universal health coverage; and a goal relating to the rule of law, which was inextricably linked to development.

28. **Mr. Dehghani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the aim of the post-2015 development agenda should be to ensure prosperity for all through an integrated approach underpinned by the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. Desertification, land degradation and drought were a serious concern for developing countries, and urgently required international cooperation. His country's environmental resources were also under severe stress due to water and air pollution. Moreover, Iran was the sixth most disaster-prone country in the world and, although it had developed effective preparedness and response capacity, it continued to need international

cooperation for that purpose. His Government remained actively involved in all the Rio+20 follow-up processes, which should culminate in a post-2015 development agenda tailored to the needs of all Member States.

29. **Mr. Jónasson** (Iceland) said that the global community would not be able to achieve food and water security, eradicate poverty and meet its greenhouse gas targets without a major improvement in the conservation and restoration of the world's soil resources. Iceland was committed to striving for a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development and had recently formed, with other States, a group of friends on desertification, land degradation and drought; he urged other Member States to join it. His delegation was also mindful of the importance of oceans and the need to take them fully into account in the post-2015 development agenda, particularly in terms of sustainable fisheries management, capacity-building and stronger pollution control. Universal accession to the Convention on the Law of the Sea would be a good contribution to that agenda. He stressed, lastly, that no significant progress could be achieved on any of the major issues without the participation of women: there had to be not only a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment but also gender mainstreaming throughout the agenda.

30. **Mr. Weisleder** (Costa Rica) said that the only genuine form of development was sustainable development, based on all the Rio Principles; it required concerted efforts and political will at every level and recovery of the ecological balance. Mechanisms must be put in place to ensure adequate and predictable financing for sustainable development, and to transfer knowledge and promote capacity-building in developing countries. The High-level Political Forum and the Group of Experts on Financing for Development were called on to provide guidance to that effect and lay the basis for an ambitious, coherent and inclusive post-2015 development agenda.

31. While all the issues under discussion were of crucial importance for the future of humanity and of the planet, Costa Rica was particularly concerned about climate change. His country would continue to advocate a more ambitious approach to that phenomenon, which affected everyone. The principal emitters of greenhouse gases should take the lead, followed by the major emerging economies and other

members of the international community, in proportion to their emissions and their economic capacity.

32. Costa Rica also gave priority to disaster risk reduction. Central America, with its rich biodiversity, thriving tourist industry and crucial agriculture sector, was particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, which created further barriers to development. Not only did they lead to investments being held back from other strategic areas and channelled into reconstruction, but they also had serious social effects, particularly among the most vulnerable groups. The Third World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, in 2015, would offer the international community a welcome opportunity to develop a stronger response to that challenge. His country's commitment to the protection of its natural resources and the promotion of sustainable development had been further evidenced by its accession to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, among other measures to combat deforestation, which had allowed it to conserve a significant proportion of its primary forest.

33. **Mr. Escalona Ojeda** (Venezuela) said that the possibility of sustainable development depended on the sustainability of life on the planet. It was therefore all the more essential to maintain a balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development at a time when economic life was being driven by commoditization, speculation and the thirst for profit. The fiscal deficit of developed countries was no accident; it was due to the transfer of public funds to rescue banks and reduce taxes for the rich, that in turn had led to the expansion of futures markets, causing instability in the prices of raw materials and food to the detriment of the world's poor. That was the origin of the fiscal deficit that the representatives of those countries alleged was the reason for their failure to meet their financial obligations. Capital overaccumulation in developed countries was the other side of the coin to environmental destruction and increased poverty.

34. The issue of a financial speculation tax must be settled by the United Nations: the funds produced would suffice to finance the MDGs and sustainable development and make good on other existing international commitments. The post-2015 development agenda must not be a list of goals: it must focus on sustainable development in all its three interdependent dimensions and on poverty eradication, notwithstanding the desire of developed countries to shirk their historical responsibility to contribute to that challenge.

The financing of sustainable development must be high on the agenda and, for that reason, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing had a strategic role to play in overcoming the financial problems that remained the main hurdle to such development.

35. **Mr. Shihab** (Maldives) said that, for his island nation, sea level rise due to climate change was an imminent existential threat. Sustainable development and climate change needed to be addressed jointly as part of a global development project. The Maldives was seeking to integrate climate change adaptation into broader sustainable development measures; it had pledged to become carbon-neutral by 2020 and urged major emitters to take aggressive mitigation action. As a country with a small economy, it found the financing of development to be a major challenge. Accordingly, he called on all nations to honour their ODA commitments and called for the creation of specific funding mechanisms for small island developing States to enable them more easily to channel domestic resources into climate change adaptation.

36. Other important issues that should be included in the post-2015 development agenda related to water stress in the form of salt water intrusion, which was a major problem to countries such as his own, and oceans, on account of their central role in life on Earth and particularly for small island peoples.

37. **Mr. Aslov** (Tajikistan) said that, in the crafting of sustainable development goals, the Open Working Group set up for that purpose should give due attention to water-related issues. The current International Year of Water Cooperation had served as a unique platform for promoting effective water cooperation and partnership and had been the occasion for an international conference hosted by his country. The conference had produced two important outcome documents — the Dushanbe Declaration and the Dushanbe Framework for Action on Water Cooperation.

38. Reliable, universal access to energy was another crucial development goal and would be advanced by an international decade of sustainable energy for all, proposed for 2014-2024. Hydroenergy, together with other types of renewable energy, could not only ensure sustainability but also result in reduced carbon emissions and thus provide a key to addressing climate change. Tajikistan was particularly well endowed in that respect and was making every effort to ensure the

complex development of its hydroenergy potential. Moreover, the challenge of climate change must be met in a global, timely and coordinated manner; that required the strengthening of existing financial mechanisms and the establishment of new channels for assisting developing countries in their adaptation efforts. One adverse effect of climate change was a higher incidence of natural disasters, which were an obstacle to sustainable development. Joint actions must be undertaken, under United Nations auspices, to reduce the risks and mitigate the consequences of such extreme events.

39. **Ms. Beck** (Solomon Islands) said that the upcoming international conference in Samoa was timely, as much had changed in the world since the adoption of the Barbados Programme of Action. Climate change demanded a global response: the low commitment level and lack of political will were threatening the very survival of countries like her own. In the Pacific, United Nations development assistance needed to be focused more on poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth; multilateral programmes should follow the example set by some bilateral partners in investing in the drivers of the economy. It was also to be hoped that the Conference would lead to a more country-specific approach and ensure that the post-2015 development agenda took national circumstances into consideration. The Solomon Islands, as one of the least developed countries, would benefit from the proposed establishment of a technology bank for such countries, as appropriate technology was critical for their sustainable development. Among the goals of sustainable development, her delegation gave priority to the promotion of healthy oceans and renewable energy.

40. **Mr. Mangisi** (Tonga) said that the experience of Tonga and other small island developing States might be usefully studied by others, since the issues they faced of sustainability, intergenerational solidarity and harmony with Nature would have to be addressed eventually by the wider international community. Those States could also learn from one another how best to cope with their challenges and, for that reason, he welcomed the development of country vulnerability-resilience profiles. Building resilience was the keynote of Tonga's new development strategy in response to increasingly numerous disasters of varying degrees of severity. Investing in resilience not only protected



people but also allowed for future investments to be directed towards other development goals.

41. Intergenerational solidarity — which itself depended on international solidarity — was a particular challenge to his country. Small island developing States needed the support of the international community in the name of solidarity with their children, bearing in mind that responsibility for climate change mitigation lay with the developed world. Moreover, future generations stood to benefit from efforts to live in harmony with Nature, which also meant living in harmony with the world's oceans and seas, in the name of sustainability. Tonga joined other Pacific small island developing States in calling for a stand-alone sustainable development goal devoted exclusively to oceans and seas.

42. **Mr. Benmellouk** (Morocco) said that the Warsaw Climate Change Conference was called on to advance negotiations towards the conclusion of a new climate agreement that would enable the international community to meet one of the greatest challenges currently facing the world — and a source of increasing suffering to the countries of the South. The international community needed to be equal to that challenge.

43. A further landmark event was the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which could be expected to give fresh momentum to international cooperation in that area. Morocco, like other countries, was exposed to the threat of extreme events and, with the support of international partners, had begun preparing a comprehensive, integrated strategy to counter such threats. Regional, subregional and interregional cooperation was essential to that effort and should be facilitated by the United Nations system.

44. **Mr. Mnisi** (Swaziland) stressed the importance of taking account, in the post-2015 development agenda, of all that still remained to be done to achieve the MDGs. His country continued to be actively engaged in efforts to put an end to poverty, which it hoped to reduce by 50 per cent by 2015 and eradicate completely by 2022. The new agenda must address the root causes of poverty; it should recognize the special development needs of developing countries; it should call for the fulfilment of ODA commitments; and it should promote global partnerships.

45. Agriculture being the main source of livelihood of most of its people, Swaziland gave priority to the promotion of sustainable agriculture and food security. It also called for the incorporation in the post-2015 development agenda of measures to address deforestation, desertification, drought, climate change and loss of biodiversity. The crosscutting issue of energy was also a major concern and needed to be the subject of a specific goal as well as requiring a stand-alone department within the United Nations Secretariat.

46. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that his country was looking forward to the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction; preparations for it should be inclusive and take into account the concerns of the most vulnerable countries. Mozambique was particularly vulnerable; frequent extreme events were among the most serious obstacles to its achievement of the MDGs. To meet that challenge, it had adopted, in 2006, a Master Plan for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters, which included a wide range of institutional, structural and preparedness measures. However, as natural disasters affected all humanity, they required a collective strategy for their prevention and for mitigation of their adverse effects. Collective action to that end needed to be supported by stronger partnerships, increased South-South cooperation and regional cooperation.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*