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Summary record of the 3rd meeting

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Chair: Mr. Cardi (Italy)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Rybakov** (Belarus) said that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had had mixed success. While the goal of halving the number of people living on less than a dollar a day had been met overall, progress was uneven across the world. More than a billion people were still living in extreme poverty, most of them in middle-income countries.

2. Questions related to the availability of resources and effective mechanisms for achieving the goals contained in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals were unresolved. There was a risk that agreements on the sustainable development goals might go unimplemented. It was important not only to draft a new development agenda, but also to lay the foundation for its implementation. To do that, it must be kept in mind that poverty could not be eradicated without considerable involvement by middle-income countries. The middle-income countries required active, coordinated assistance from the United Nations to carry out their national development programmes. At the same time, they had great potential to assist other countries, particularly the less developed countries. The dual role of middle-income countries must be recognized within the United Nations and reflected in the form of a strategy or coordinated mechanism.

3. Development also hinged on the availability of environmentally friendly energy sources. New strategies to resolve energy issues more systematically must be considered, including an integrated energy agenda for the United Nations that would provide for a global, transparent and genuinely democratic mechanism for access to advanced, renewable, environmentally safe technologies.

4. The sustainable development goals agenda would require making the United Nations operational activities more effective and ensuring that all relevant Member States met their financing for development commitments without fail. The idea of establishing an intergovernmental financing for development body within the Economic and Social Council should be revisited.

5. **Mr. Seger** (Switzerland) said that there had been an agreement to have a single post-2015 development agenda to address poverty eradication and sustainable

development, containing one set of objectives, an integrated financing mechanism and a monitoring and accountability framework. There were 11 months remaining in which to realize a shared vision. The preparatory process for the 2015 summit must be well structured, focused and inclusive. The modalities of the preparatory process for the summit would be key to success. His delegation expected the Secretary-General's synthesis report on the post-2015 development framework to reaffirm the ambitious proposals developed by the Open Working Group and propose follow-up and review mechanisms.

6. All the agencies of the United Nations development system responsible for sustainable development at the normative and operational level must work hand in hand. The high-level political forum on sustainable development would become fully functional upon adoption of the new agenda, and its cycle should therefore be reset. Aligning the high-level review and follow-up cycle of the post-2015 agenda with the four-year cycle of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would enable the forum to offer crucial guidance to the United Nations development system regarding the specific contribution of the United Nations to implementation of the sustainable development agenda. Upon adoption of the sustainable development goals, the most important question would be how to make it a living reality. A change of paradigm could take place only if there were practical changes in the daily lives of all. While responsibility for concrete implementation fell to all high-level national and international actors, the States were primarily responsible. Thus, the success of the new agenda would depend on the establishment of an effective verification mechanism as part of global follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda. The high-level political forum was also crucial to follow-up and accountability.

7. Informal consultations on how best to cluster and/or merge current resolutions in order to improve the coherence and integration of all three dimensions of sustainable development would be welcome. Given the recent increase in the number of resolutions dealing with topics also covered in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the post-2015 development framework, it would be beneficial to streamline the agenda items into a smaller number of comprehensive resolutions. It was time to adjust the working methods

of the Second Committee to support the post-2015 development agenda.

8. **Mr. Aboulatta** (Egypt) said that the Second Committee must concentrate on the adoption of the post-2015 development framework and that it was important to achieve the MDGs before 2015 and benefit from experience gained in poverty eradication efforts. Developed countries must fulfil their commitments, including earmarking 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) for official development assistance (ODA). Indeed, there had been a 6 per cent decrease in ODA to African countries. The sustainable development goals should build on the Rio+20 outcome document, reflect changing development patterns, support developing nations by guaranteeing access to developed country markets for their products and be based on the principles of human rights and justice.

9. Noting that the developing world faced challenges that eroded its chances of development, he said that the sustainable development goals could be achieved only through global partnerships that respected the diversity of Member States and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The high-level political forum must issue policy directives on sustainable development, follow-up mechanisms and emerging challenges.

10. Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on options for facilitating the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, he noted that it was necessary to close the technology gap in order to achieve sustainable industrialization. The question of modalities for financing technology should be included in the post-2015 agenda. The adoption of a resolution establishing a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring was a positive step towards addressing that issue, including the debts owed by middle-income countries.

11. Serious international efforts were required to repatriate funds that had been illegally transferred abroad. That could boost development efforts and also deter corruption and organized crime. The issue of food security, including the adverse impact of rising food prices owing, *inter alia*, to severe drought and flooding in some parts of Africa, must be comprehensively addressed. Countries that were net food importers needed support. There must be a

balance between the production of food and fuel, and farmers in developing countries should receive support to compensate for the subsidies that developed countries paid their farmers. The United Nations system was urged to focus on middle-income countries, which continued to face major challenges in their efforts to alleviate poverty and address wealth disparity.

12. **Mr. Çevik** (Turkey) said that both developing and developed countries were still experiencing the effects of the global economic and financial crisis, including low economic growth rates, market volatility, unemployment and poverty. Development assistance, foreign direct investment and private capital flows to developing countries were below desired levels. The international community must make further concerted efforts to create an environment conducive to increased production, trade, investment and jobs, especially for the more vulnerable segments of society, such as youth and women.

13. The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States benefited least from globalization and suffered the most from its adverse effects. The vulnerabilities and challenges of countries in special situations and the unique challenges facing them should be addressed during the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

14. The Turkish International Cooperation Agency was actively engaged in development cooperation efforts with small island developing States across the globe. The successful Ministerial Conference on New Partnerships for Productive Capacity Building in Least Developed Countries, held in Cotonou in July 2014, had resulted in a comprehensive outcome document. Turkey had contributed both substantively and financially to the preparations for that conference and to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries that would be held in early November in Vienna. Turkey would host the midterm review conference on implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action adopted at the fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011. Turkey stood ready to host a technology bank and a science, technology and innovation support mechanism to address the technological needs of the least developed countries and had made a voluntary pledge of \$200,000 to assist with their establishment. During its upcoming

Presidency of the Group of 20 (G20), development issues would be among the priorities.

15. **Mr. Hussein** (Iraq) said that it was impossible for heavily indebted countries to achieve economic development, the MDGs and sustainable development goals. Indeed, comprehensively resolving the indebtedness problems of developing countries depended on achieving sustainable development, which would promote investment in those countries, help diversify their economies and strengthen their capacity to absorb shocks. The adoption of a resolution on a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes was a step in the right direction.

16. A much-needed restructuring of the international monetary system to reflect the current financial and commercial situation could mitigate the impact of the international financial crisis, as would an appropriate international response in the form of steady ODA flows to help developing countries bridge the remaining financial gaps and achieve the MDGs. Outright debt cancellation or debt restructuring would also constitute a step in the right direction. Furthermore, States should regulate markets appropriately in order to serve the common interest and national resources should be evenly distributed, paying special attention to vulnerable groups such as women and children.

17. With regard to the rule of law, human security was closely related to sustainable development. However, the relationship between sustainable development and the rule of law was not necessarily axiomatic. Good governance and the rule of law alone did not guarantee conditions conducive to economic and social progress for most inhabitants of a country. A society rocked by acts of terrorism was unlikely to achieve significant development, and security did not automatically lead to economic or social progress, unless the necessary resources and infrastructure requirements were available. Financial and economic infrastructure was needed for development.

18. The report of the Open Working Group had not given sufficient space to the issue of combating terrorism, especially as the problem was a threat not only to the Middle East, but also to the entire world. That challenge should be dealt with as a separate goal that addressed terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the impact of terrorism, terrorist

financing, and ways to combat calls in the media and takfirist fatwas to support terrorism.

19. Every developing country must be given the policy space it needed to reconcile the universality of the MDGs and the sustainable development goals with its particular conditions and specific national programmes.

20. **Mr. Abradkhmanov** (Kazakhstan) said that his Government had introduced significant reforms to address recent political developments in the region and endeavour to overcome the geographical disadvantage Kazakhstan faced as a landlocked country. The new development programmes and projects implemented under the reforms were bearing fruit. However, worldwide recovery required globally coordinated policy to achieve sustainable growth and development. Kazakhstan had therefore adopted a draft anti-crisis plan under the annual Astana Economic Forum and submitted it to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for consideration in conjunction with discussions of sovereign debt restructuring and other issues.

21. Referring to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, he said that commitments and partnerships were necessary to develop a new, more comprehensive, action-oriented framework to respond to the challenges and opportunities facing landlocked developing countries.

22. The situation of small island developing States (SIDS) was also worrisome. Along with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Kazakhstan was launching a project for the installation of bio gas systems in nine SIDS countries of the Pacific region.

23. Key documents, including the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, were being reviewed; they would serve as a foundation for global and regional efforts in the near future. Kazakhstan, which fully supported the international statement entitled "Putting a Price on Carbon", was trying to make the transition to a green economy and had recently adopted voluntary commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

24. In 2017, Kazakhstan would host Expo-2017: Future Energy, an international specialized exhibition to promote new and renewable energy sources and would provide support to representatives of some 60 developing countries to participate. Kazakhstan and several other countries had also launched the Green Bridge Partnership Programme endorsed in “The future we want,” the Rio+20 outcome document. It would continue to avail itself of international expertise and financial assistance to address the consequences of the Aral Sea and Semipalatinsk environmental disasters.

25. **Mr. Ngculu** (South Africa) said that the theme of the current session of the General Assembly, “delivering on and implementing a transformative post-2015 development agenda”, would provide guidance towards the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. Development was a continuum that should build on existing commitments learned from implementation of the MDGs framework, so that previous successes, implementation gaps and systematic shortcomings were addressed. The MDGs and the outcomes of other international development conferences together with the work of the Open Working Group must be the basis of intergovernmental negotiations on a transformative global development agenda to address the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality faced by many developing nations. The focus and theme of the Summit planned for September 2015 should remain strictly developmental in nature.

26. The means of implementation of the global development agenda in the form of financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity-building were critically important. They were related to concrete actions on the part of developed countries and consolidation of development cooperation at the international level. An accountability framework should be set up under the high-level political forum on sustainable development to monitor the delivery of development partners’ commitments. The new development agenda should provide assistance for the special needs of African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, so that they could achieve rapid, inclusive and sustained economic growth.

27. The Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration ought to serve as the foundation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development. The outcomes of that conference should

serve as a critical input into the discussions on the means of implementation of the post-2015 implementation agenda. External and domestic sources of sustainable development support, both public and private, should complement each other, as each had its own role and objectives. Member States must stress the need for increased public sources of finance.

28. Given that fragilities and imbalances in the international financial system had had negative consequences for development, good economic governance was essential. In that context, the global economic and financial architecture must be reformed, including the international financial institutions, so that they were representative and responsive to the needs of the developing countries and reflected current global geo-economic realities. The post-2015 development agenda should support the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations and commitments made therein and continually reaffirm the relevant mandate and goals.

29. **Mr. Dehghani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the current year would be a turning point in economic development, for reasons that included progress on the work on the post-2015 development agenda, the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the twentieth and twenty-first Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the upcoming World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. However, substance should take priority over process. The quality of and the ability to implement outcomes were very important, as were implementation modalities.

30. The sovereign right of each country to decide its own development priorities and strategies and the required policy space for formulation of development strategies by developing countries should be respected in the process of their integration into the global economy. Unfortunately, the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources to meet commitments under the MDGs was seriously constrained. In that connection, the international financial and monetary systems needed urgent systemic reform to make them more effective, transparent and legitimate. That would, of course, have an impact on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. There should be adequate attention to the work of the United Nations development system during the new phase. Negative repercussions could

linger for years or decades to come. There should be discussion and decisions at the current session on follow-up to implementation of development commitments.

31. Although it was the target of severe unilateral coercive measures, the Islamic Republic of Iran had made tremendous progress towards achievement of the MDGs. Respect for human values and international laws must not be compromised for any reason or under any pretext.

32. **Mr. Boukadoum** (Algeria) said that the report of the Open Working Group constituted the foundation upon which the future development agenda would rest. The Lima Climate Change Conference would pave the way for the adoption of a legally binding climate regime based on the principles of Rio+20, including that of common but differentiated responsibilities. The new regime should reflect the need to meet commitments on financing, capacity-building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. It should also appropriately address the adaptation approach to global warming, which was of great concern for developing countries.

33. His delegation hoped that the third International Conference on Financing for Development would reach an ambitious, action-oriented outcome that fully reflected the concerns of developing countries, especially in Africa. The sensitive issue of sovereign debt restructuring was best managed through an intergovernmental process that was not only mindful of the sovereignty of States and those they legitimately represented, but that would also allow them to determine their development objectives in accordance with their national policies and legislation.

34. While the MDGs had done much to alleviate extreme poverty, progress had been uneven among various regions. The Africa region was the furthest from achieving the MDGs. Development partners were urged to fulfil all commitments to Africa, especially in regard to ODA, which had declined in 2013. Africa's low share in the volume of international trade, a mere 3 per cent, was cause for concern. While South-South cooperation was a great engine for development cooperation, North-South cooperation was the backbone of a solid partnership for development framework.

35. **Mr. Patriota** (Brazil) said that, since the broad application of neoliberal economic policies in the

1980s, wage and wealth disparities both within and among countries had skyrocketed. According to a recent study conducted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the average income of the world's richest countries had increased from 44 times that of the poorest in the 1980s to 60 times greater in 2000. Income inequality among countries was currently greater than income inequality within countries, a situation with serious social, humanitarian and economic consequences. Growth was stifled, and deteriorating incomes reduced demand everywhere, providing a weak basis for recovery from the economic and financial crisis. Inequality was not only morally wrong but also damaging to the economy, a fact recognized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The most unjust enduring effect was stagnating levels of education. It had been acknowledged, however, that active public policies were beneficial for sustainable and inclusive development.

36. Since 2008, many truisms about economics based on the Washington Consensus had been overturned, requiring financial institutions to develop better tools to support the world economy. A leading economist had recently noted that government lending and active support were in fact of critical importance during downturns and at times when the private sector was unable or unwilling to lend. In Brazil, active social policies such as Bolsa Familia had been central to reducing poverty rates and inequality, while also providing demand-led growth and invigorating the domestic market. As a result, more than 40 million Brazilians had been lifted out of poverty and brought into the middle class in a period of 10 years. Generating mass employment, formalizing work relations, enforcing social rights and caring for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, including through affirmative action, were critical to combating social injustice and lack of opportunity.

37. It was more difficult, though not impossible, to do the same at the international level. The report of the Open Working Group contained a sustainable development goal on reducing inequality within and among nations. Targets within that goal acknowledged the need to address income disparity and discrimination and to improve voice and representation of developing countries in international financial institutions. The delay of the 2010 International Monetary Fund governance and quota reform was

cause for serious concern. The new vision for international development cooperation should be sustainable, inclusive and universal, while fully respecting the common but differentiated responsibilities of developed and developing countries. The importance of technology for sustainable development was recognized throughout the Open Working Group report, which contained numerous references to the development, transfer and dissemination of technologies.

38. Developed countries must move beyond repeatedly reaffirming the same unmet commitments and agree on new, additional means of implementation that corresponded to the high ambitions of the new, transformative agenda, including through the scaling up of ODA. With regard to sovereign debt, fairness towards sovereign States and the right of their populations to development was part of the commitment to the rule of law, both nationally and internationally.

39. The twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the Climate Convention should produce a new, binding instrument that fully respected the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. At the fifteenth Conference of the Parties in 2009, Brazil had announced a voluntary commitment to reduce projected emissions by 36 to 39 per cent by 2020. Deforestation had been reduced by 79 per cent in Brazil over the past 10 years.

40. Brazil, which supported a more open, democratic multi-stakeholder governance structure for the Internet, would soon be preparing for the ten-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society. Human rights, including the right to privacy, must be protected on and off the Internet. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers must become a truly international entity. Internet governance reform was too important for the United Nations to ignore. A more prominent venue at the heart of the United Nations system was needed to face up to the challenges of a global cyberenvironment undergoing rapid evolution.

41. **Mr. Empole** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) welcomed the fact that the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which emphasized poverty eradication, would serve as the basis for the post-2015 development agenda. Africa was the region most affected by armed conflict. For over 20 years, armed conflict had raged in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in the eastern part of the country. It had, inter alia, displaced millions of people, made it impossible to tap the country's immense natural resources and wiped out returns on years of investment. His delegation therefore welcomed the inclusion of a goal on peace and security since, without a modicum of security, development would be but a pipe dream.

42. Adoption of the new agenda did not mean that development partners should shirk their previous commitments, especially with regard to poverty eradication and assistance to the most vulnerable. Meeting the MDGs and providing assistance for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action should remain priorities for the United Nations system. The transfer of new, clean technologies, trade liberalization under the Doha Declaration, financing for adaptation to climate change and mitigation and increasing ODA were other commitments made on behalf of the most vulnerable that should be implemented.

43. Terrorism and the fresh outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in Africa could delay implementation of the goals that the international community had set for itself. Indeed, the virus was not only claiming more victims daily but also disrupting the economies of the affected countries. The solidarity of the international community and its technical and logistical support were much appreciated. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, which was experiencing its seventh outbreak, had been able to contain the epidemic to the area where it had broken out. It had provided assistance to countries in West Africa and stood ready to provide additional assistance, including in the key area of prevention. In that regard, the Democratic Republic of the Congo would very shortly be setting up multidisciplinary training centres to prepare health personnel to respond to the needs of African countries affected by the Ebola virus. That initiative deserved support.

44. His country had one of Africa's most dynamic economies, with an inflation rate close to zero, a growth rate that for nearly a decade had been above average for Africa and steadily growing foreign exchange reserves. There was an unprecedented boom in infrastructure construction and efforts had been made to create an enabling environment for private-sector investment and foreign direct investment through tax incentives and less bureaucratic red tape.

Reforms of the security and justice sectors and of the management of public finances were beginning to bear fruit. The Grand Inga hydropower project was part of that undertaking; it would eventually produce enough clean, renewable electricity to meet the needs of nearly half of the population of Africa.

45. Climate change was a human rights concern, particularly for people in island nations and in Africa. An ambitious and legally binding agreement should be concluded in Paris in 2015 to enable the rapid reduction of carbon emissions, keep global temperature increases under two degrees Celsius and support climate change resilience. The Democratic Republic of the Congo had included forest ecosystems management in its sustainable development policy to increase the proportion of forested and protected areas.

46. **Ms. Mejía Vélez** (Colombia) said that the Latin American region had made indisputable progress on the MDGs. It was important to maintain the intergovernmental nature of the post-2015 development agenda and the primacy of the Rio+20 outcome. The report of the Open Working Group should be the basis of the new agenda and should not be reopened or renegotiated. The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, the outcome of discussions on the establishment of a technology transfer mechanism and the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda would complement the agenda.

47. The new agenda must address the need to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality through sustainability policies and changed patterns of production and consumption, creating conditions that would guarantee irreversible results. A new habitat agenda was needed. The Medellín Declaration, adopted during the most recent World Urban Forum, stressed the need for a new urban agenda that could overcome the lack of planning and legal frameworks in many towns, a situation that led to ceaseless expansion and intensive energy use and had an alarming impact on climate change. The post-2015 development agenda must also address the special needs of the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries.

48. The new agenda required a renewed international partnership that would address the failings of the current international system, meet technology transfer

commitments and provide sustainable debt solutions. An open, rule-based, transparent trading system that provided financial and technical resources for developing countries was needed. The international environment must support national efforts, with improved consistency and coordination of the monetary, financial and commercial systems.

49. There could be no sustainable development without a response to climate change. A multilateral, legally binding agreement that was applicable to all parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must emerge from the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the Convention to be held in Paris in 2015.

50. **Ms. Meitzad** (Israel) said that there was no simple solution to the vast challenges of sustainable development, and solutions could not be the same for all. While many of the principles outlined in the Millennium Declaration remained relevant, much had changed in the past 14 years. New economic powers had emerged, new technologies changed how people lived and there were new demographic patterns. The private sector, philanthropic foundations and civil society were more involved in global affairs.

51. The eradication of poverty must be rooted in a basic commitment to universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. Gender equality and women's empowerment were inseparably linked to promoting and protecting the human rights of all women, including their right to decide freely on matters related to their sexuality. Women still died every day owing to preventable childbirth and pregnancy-related problems. Empowering women to control their own reproductive decisions, including determining the number, timing and spacing of their children, was essential to reducing maternal and child mortality, and enabled women to participate fully in their families, professions and communities. Despite overall declines in maternal mortality, women in rural areas were still up to three times more likely to die while giving birth than women living in urban centres.

52. The involvement of young people in decision-making and implementation processes was critical. Each nation should seek to empower young people and encourage them to make their voices heard. The data revolution provided an opportunity to devise new approaches to development problems, better

understand changes in human well-being and get real-time feedback on the effectiveness of policy responses.

53. Entrepreneurship was an important way to break the cycle of poverty, empower women and youth and achieve economic growth and sustainable development. It had a ripple effect, as business leaders built teams, instilled confidence in their peers and empowered others to pursue their dreams. Efforts to create a platform for visionaries, dreamers and risk-takers around the world must be intensified.

54. **Mr. McLay** (New Zealand) said that the work of the current session of the General Assembly would be critical to finalizing a new agenda for global economic, social and environmental development. He welcomed the outcome of the recent third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the upcoming United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. The events highlighted challenges facing some of the world's most vulnerable States, but also profiled opportunities to address those challenges through new strategies and strengthened partnerships. Partnership had been a theme of the International Conference on Small Island Developing States. The report of the Open Working Group contained goals and targets that would form the basis of the new agenda. Over the coming year, it would be the responsibility of all States to ensure that the final set of sustainable development goals was ambitious, inclusive, transformative and irreversible. Practical implementation of that agenda relied in part on inclusive global partnerships and on effective mobilization of development financing. Those issues would be important considerations in the preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development, an event that would be critical to translating the international community's collective ambition into real action.

55. The engagement of Member States in the Second Committee should remain procedural and technical. States must avoid pre-empting the substantive work to be undertaken through other, separate processes. The macroeconomic agenda of the Committee was deeply relevant to sustainable development and global efforts towards greater economic security. Many low and middle-income countries still faced difficulty finding durable solutions to external debt problems. During the previous session, members had agreed to negotiate a multilateral framework for restructuring sovereign debt. Such an important issue required a consensus-

building approach. The United Nations should act in a coordinated way with other relevant players, including various international financial institutions.

56. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (Nicaragua) said that the economic crisis was one of the greatest challenges in recent decades. It was ongoing, affecting the poorest segments of the international community, and no agreement had been reached on measures to be taken at the international level. Eradication of poverty and hunger required changes to the existing model, which was based on exploitation of the majority by a minority.

57. The international financial architecture must undergo a thorough restructuring. The resolution on sovereign debt restructuring and the International Conference on Financing for Development were highly important macroeconomic measures. Nicaragua reiterated its unwavering solidarity with Argentina in its opposition to vulture funds.

58. While it was gratifying that poverty had been deemed the most urgent priority among the sustainable development goals, greater clarity on methods of implementation and stronger global partnerships was needed. The fact that not all countries had achieved the MDGs was grounds for concern. The post-2015 development framework must be developed in the context of an open, transparent intergovernmental process. For Nicaragua, the post-2015 development agenda was a new opportunity to work towards a more just world order based on full inclusion, participatory social development, environmental protection and human dignity. The developed countries must meet their commitment of providing 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA.

59. Nicaragua continued to build a new society based on fraternity and solidarity. Its economic growth in 2014 had been noteworthy among the countries of Central America. The country had one of the world's highest rates of women serving as ministers, parliamentarians and mayors.

60. The world needed a balanced, fair climate agreement. The result must reflect the gravity of climate change and protect life-sustaining ecosystems.

61. He reiterated his delegation's solidarity with the State of Palestine. Now more than ever, recognition of Palestine must become a reality. The killings, which

had been condemned by the vast majority of the international community, must stop.

62. **Mr. Maksimychev** (Russian Federation) said that the report of the Open Working Group reflected Member States' vision of "The future we want" and served as a substantial foundation for negotiations. The Russian Federation remained firmly opposed to a broad interpretation of sustainable development and attempts to politicize the post-2015 development agenda.

63. Continued volatility in the world financial and economic situation was one of the main challenges to sustainable development. International financial and economic relations should be made more predictable, with an effective system of checks and balances, to maintain the balance necessary for overall sustainable development. Regional and interregional economic integration bodies that served to stimulate economic development and also acted as a buffer in case of significant financial turbulence were an important element of such a system. The Russian Federation was an active supporter of such models, having been involved in the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union and the new BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Development Bank.

64. Recent events had indicated that the issue of external debt servicing required a comprehensive regulatory approach. His delegation stood ready to participate in constructive discussions on the modalities of a future negotiation process in the Second Committee but would continue to oppose unilateral economic sanctions, whose negative consequences for development had been clearly shown.

65. Enhancements to the operational activities of the United Nations were an important issue for the Russian Federation, as a donor nation. A well-defined and timely quadrennial comprehensive policy review would only advance successful implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

66. Raising the profile of the United Nations regional commissions and tapping their potential more fully as part of the transition to the new global development agenda was an issue deserving of particular attention. With their greater understanding of the variety and unique aspects of specific regions, the regional commissions should play the main role in providing assistance to Member States in developing optimal national sustainable development strategies.

67. **Mr. Pedersen** (Norway) said that the MDGs had led to impressive results. The existence of a single global, well-defined set of goals had been an important innovation in development work. However, in nations torn by war, MDG results stagnated or declined. Crisis and conflict were the enemies of poverty eradication. Everything possible must be done to prevent and end conflicts, and particular attention must be paid in conflict situations to the rights and needs of girls and marginalized groups. Children's right to education and health care must not be neglected in situations of conflict.

68. Sustainable, quality MDG results required innovative approaches. Partnerships with the private sector and civil society must be strengthened, and innovative financing mechanisms such as results-based financing should be stimulated to accelerate achievement of the MDGs.

69. The sustainable development goals must build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals and be realistic, ambitious, concrete and measurable. Their scope must go beyond that of the MDGs. The agenda for the next 15 years should leave no doubt as to the importance of peace and stability, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including women's rights.

70. Extra efforts were needed to make sure that the sustainable development goals were manageable for governments, understandable to the public and measurable. Inclusive, evidence-based processes must be used for review. The United Nations had an important role to play in the sustainable development goals, with regard to global public goods as well as individual countries' achievements. The United Nations had to be fit for purpose. Because the United Nations development system could not and should not do everything, the system might have to be repositioned, building on the comparative advantages of its individual parts. The sustainable development goal process was an opportunity to consider more fundamental changes than those contained in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

71. **Mr. Makharoblishvili** (Georgia) said that Georgia had achieved most of the MDGs. Poverty had been reduced from 21 per cent to 15 per cent, and extreme poverty had also declined significantly. The introduction and expansion of social protection schemes had provided a safety net for the most

vulnerable groups, including families living in poverty, the elderly and persons with disabilities. In 2013, pensions and social allowances had been increased by 50 and 100 per cent, respectively.

72. High primary school enrolment had been maintained since 2000. In 2012, the country had passed the 10 per cent threshold for women in the Parliament, whereas in 2000 that number had been 5 per cent. Women held key ministerial portfolios in the Ministries of Justice, Education, Foreign Affairs, Environmental Protection and other areas. The mortality rate for children under the age of five had been nearly halved and the maternal mortality rate had decreased by more than half. HIV rates were low in Georgia, the only country in Eastern Europe with universal access to antiretroviral treatment.

73. Since 2006, Georgia had abolished import duties on nearly 85 per cent of goods. It had one of the most liberal foreign trade policies in the world, which meant that it facilitated foreign trade regimes and customs procedures and had low import tariffs and minimal non-tariff regulations.

74. Georgia was highly ranked as a business-friendly nation because of factors such as robust Government policies and commitment, civil society engagement and international cooperation. According to the World Bank, conditions had improved more since 2005 in Georgia than in any other country in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Georgia had signed an Association Agreement with the European Union in 2014, opening a qualitatively new phase of cooperation. The main part of the Agreement, including establishment of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, had entered into force in September 2014.

75. The incidence and severity of poverty nonetheless remained a matter of great concern, not only in Georgia but in other countries as well. While five of the eight MDGs would be achieved globally before the deadline in 2015, progress had been uneven within and across countries.

76. Georgia, which was committed to progressive action on mitigating climate change, intended to become carbon neutral by 2050. The vast energy resources in the region could provide new opportunities for cooperation among energy producers, transit and consumer countries throughout the region. High-speed, cost-effective and reliable channels were needed for delivering goods from China to Western

Europe. Strengthening transport links in the region was key. Georgia had made significant contributions through active participation in a range of important regional and international projects, as well as by modernizing its domestic transport infrastructure.

77. **Mr. Iziraren** (Morocco) said that the sustainable development goals as proposed by the Open Working Group should serve as the basis for consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, with poverty eradication reaffirmed as its primary goal. All 17 sustainable development goals should be retained in the post-2015 development agenda. Furthermore, helping countries attain economic independence through transformative inclusive growth and industrialization were the best means of eradicating poverty through employment and income-earning opportunities.

78. The sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda should also take into account the level of development and development strategies and priorities of countries. They should also underscore the needs and specific problems of developing countries and their limited capacity to respond to development challenges.

79. ODA remained crucial for the financing of sustainable development programmes, particularly for the least developed countries. The outcome of the third Conference on Financing for Development was expected to be strengthened financing mechanisms. The post-2015 agenda should facilitate conditionality-free access to technology for developing countries.

80. With regard to climate change, it was hoped that an international instrument would be elaborated that committed countries to strong measures to limit the adverse effects of climate change. Such an agreement must be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, given that developing countries, which were the most affected by climate change, were the least responsible for greenhouse gas emissions. Financing by development partners was essential to help developing countries implement policies to address climate change.

81. South-South cooperation must be strengthened now more than ever, and should be included in the post-2015 development framework. Development partnerships should also be a part of regional and interregional cooperation. Such cooperation also made it possible to pool efforts so that countries could

coordinate their economic policies to achieve shared prosperity.

82. **Ms. Nazaire** (Haiti) said that the world faced numerous threats as a result of development shortfalls or growth that was not equitably distributed. Wars of annexation, civil wars, an upsurge in religious fanaticism and terrorism, the risk of new pandemics and highly unusual natural disasters compounded the effects of the financial crisis, from which the world had barely recovered. The economic, social and environmental situations were cause for concern and called for intensive care. What was needed was a holistic and multidimensional vision of development that made it possible to satisfy human needs without putting future generations at risk.

83. Haiti had emerged from the devastating earthquake of January 2010 with greater resilience and confidence in the future, and was currently completing its period of transition and humanitarian recovery. It had embarked upon an intensive reconstruction and development programme and, despite highly unfavourable conditions, had made significant progress towards the achievement of the MDGs. A broad range of social programmes to help the most vulnerable, including school enrolment free of charge for hundreds of thousands of needy children and significant investments in reproductive health, had greatly reduced the number of poor people lacking resources and had reduced rates of illiteracy, fertility and maternal mortality. The MDGs would be attained or nearly attained within a year although much remained to be done to eradicate extreme poverty. The Government of Haiti was prepared to take action.

84. Haiti fully supported the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, which was the result of the renewed understanding that small island developing States had unique and specific vulnerabilities to climate change. Climate change was a direct threat to their territorial integrity, viability, survival and existence. Such States required new, predictable financial resources and special treatment under the various multilateral economic and commercial agreements, so as to get effective access to global trade.

85. Other issues of particular concern to Haiti included international migration, agricultural development and food security, renewable energy, biodiversity and reform of the international financial

system. In no way did innovative forms of financing, such as partnerships with the private sector and South-South cooperation, release more prosperous countries from their commitments to cooperate on sustainable development for all.

86. **Mr. Chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that sustainable development was an urgent matter. Extreme poverty and environmental issues caused by unfair and selfish economic activities must be addressed. There could be no discussion of sustainable economic and social development unless there was an end to coercive political and military manoeuvres that threatened regional peace and stability and physically undermined sovereignty and the right to development of sovereign States.

87. The self-interest of a few countries had resulted in disputes and armed conflicts in various parts of the world. Unilateral sanctions had caused an unstable security environment, and the unresolved financial crisis was a serious threat to the sustainable development environment worldwide. In particular, the United States and some other countries were enforcing unilateral sanctions, coercive measures and inhumane politicization of humanitarian cooperation against specific countries in the fields of finance, trade, investment and other development cooperation. That should be discontinued immediately.

88. Rapid economic growth by emerging economies and other developing countries contributed significantly to global consumption and trade volume growth. Unfair, dated international economic relationships and the current international monetary system dominated by the United States dollar should be reformed without further delay. The dominant position of a few countries in the World Bank system, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization was the main cause of the current crisis.

89. The goals and targets of a new global development agenda should be commensurate with the national circumstances and abilities of each country. It was crucial for countries to set priorities on their own in accordance with their domestic circumstances. Only when individual countries established their own sustainable development goals that could be integrated into regional goals could a true global partnership process be launched. Developed countries and donor nations should not impose obstacles, burdens and political and economic restrictions on the developing

countries but rather implement their commitments to ODA and technology transfer.

90. Improving living standards was a top priority in his country. A powerful economic model was being put in place, and socialist civilization was being made to flourish. Despite constant threats of nuclear war by hostile forces, the Government was increasing investment in agriculture, construction and science and technology, as well as vigorously introducing new economic management systems. Major monuments were under construction to promote the well-being of the people.

91. **Mr. Reyes Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that the gap separating North from South continued to grow. Paradoxically, there were sufficient resources, technology and capacity to change the situation, but the rich and powerful lacked the political will to meet their international commitments. A system that spent billions on the military while hundreds of millions of people lived in extreme poverty was not sustainable. If those resources had been spent on development, much progress would have been made towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals. The situation clearly showed that the foundations of the world economy were in crisis. A new, more just and inclusive international order was a pressing necessity.

92. The goal of the post-2015 development agenda was a multilateral, democratic, effective and transparent system with full participation by the developing countries, in conditions of equality. In order to avoid the mistakes of the MDGs, the new agenda must include new mechanisms for financing sustainable development, ways of addressing the issue of foreign debt and measures for transforming trade and international finance into agents of development.

93. Noting that foreign debt servicing drained vital resources away from development in the South, he urged the developed countries to participate actively and constructively in the negotiations on modalities for establishing a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring.

94. The primary causes of the environmental crisis were irrational and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Those patterns were part of a system of capitalist economic domination that resulted in significant inequality and poverty. Finding a solution based on common but differentiated responsibilities required political will on the part of the

developed countries, which were historically responsible for the issue and had the greatest capacities. At the Lima Climate Change Conference, rationality and solidarity must prevail over wastefulness and selfishness.

95. Cuba had struggled under unique circumstances to achieve development. In recent years, the United States had intensified its extraterritorial implementation of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, taking a new approach that involved massive fines levied against third-country banking institutions. Cuba nonetheless continued to make significant progress in economic and social development, thanks to the efforts of its people and cooperation with fraternal countries in the region and across the world.

96. **Mr. Dabbashi** (Libya) said that, while there was poverty, there could be no sustainable development. Eradicating poverty should remain the central and most comprehensive goal in the new agenda. He welcomed the report of the Open Working Group, which must provide the basis for intergovernmental negotiations to set new goals for the post-2015 development agenda. All countries should join in the efforts so that the goals developed would be universal in nature and based on a genuine partnership between developing and developed countries and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The international community should draw on the lessons learned from the MDGs in setting the post-2015 development agenda.

97. For various reasons, including resource shortfalls, political and security instability and ODA shortfalls, arising from the world financial and economic crisis, it seemed likely that some countries would fail to achieve the MDGs by the deadline. The goal of eradicating poverty and meeting the MDGs that had not been fully achieved should therefore be included in the new goals.

98. Since the adoption of the MDGs, Libya had reformed its economic policies, restructured its economy and made great strides towards achieving the MDGs. Under normal circumstances, it could easily have met the MDGs by 2015. However, recent events, acute political polarization and a chaotic security situation owing to the rebellion of armed militias, had affected attainment of the MDGs and, in some cases, prevented economic growth almost completely. The people of Libya looked forward to the achievement of

national consensus and reconciliation, which would revive the country's economy and help it meet the remaining MDGs and make progress towards achieving the post-2015 goals.

99. Capital flight from developing to developed countries and safe havens contributed to slowing development. Unfortunately, national legislation had made some countries into safe havens for smuggling and laundering of funds through shell companies and secret accounts. An international instrument to combat corruption was needed. Libya hoped that all countries would help it recover plundered funds, which would provide additional resources for economic growth. Financing for development goals, either the old or the new ones, would make it possible to complete infrastructure projects that would employ many workers from neighbouring countries; that would not only benefit Libya and its neighbours, but also help curb illegal immigration to Europe.

100. Referring to the economic and financial crisis, which had laid bare shortcomings in economic governance, he said that the international financial system should be reformed, drawing on the lessons learned from the crisis. The role of the United Nations in the economic and financial sphere must be reinforced. The Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration provided the basis for addressing challenges. To encourage development, additional domestic and global resources must be mobilized and financial and technical cooperation strengthened. Efforts must also be made to address the external debt burdens of countries, regulate international immigration, and strengthen government oversight of financing for development initiatives. Libya hoped that the third United Nations Conference on Financing for Development would help to address the obstacles to the achievement of agreed goals, taking into account current developments in development cooperation, the linkages among all sources of all development financing and the need to address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development.

101. **Mr. Jawhara** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the report of the Open Working Group had established a firm foundation for the international community's deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda, which should be aligned with other documents on development, climate change, financing for development and technology transfer and have poverty eradication as a core goal.

102. Achieving global development objectives meant addressing all the impediments to development, particularly in developing countries. Meeting unfulfilled commitments would require political will. There must be international efforts to put an immediate end to foreign occupation, which was the main obstacle to the development and well-being of people under occupation.

103. Pledges and commitments to lift without delay all unilateral economic coercive measures imposed on developing nations should be renewed. There was general agreement that such measures had a negative impact on livelihoods, prevented countries from building their economies and achieving sustainable development and undermined the international trading system. Such measures, which undermined trust between States, were illegal because they were outside the ambit of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

104. Eradicating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and taking action against its supporters and sources of financing was a way of supporting Member States affected by terrorism. Indeed, terrorist actions violated human rights, and the principles of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, caused wanton destruction and deprived people of their right to development and secure livelihoods.

105. The international commitments mentioned in the Rio+20 outcome document, including common but differentiated responsibilities, should be renewed. Developed countries should fulfil their commitments to provide ODA to developing countries and increase that assistance by financing technology transfer. Developing countries would then be able to participate fully in international economic and financial governance mechanisms.

106. All obstacles that prevented the access of developing country products to the markets of the developed world must be removed. Politicized measures to prevent countries from joining multilateral trade agreements should be discontinued. All actions should take into account the important role of commerce as an engine for development.

107. **Ms. Camacho** (Mexico) said that the report of the Open Working Group reflected the diversity of development models and national capacities and should serve as the basis for incorporating sustainable

development goals into the post-2015 development agenda.

108. The next phase of negotiations should focus on developing a clearer vision of the transformation needed to address structural gaps related to inequality, poverty and environmental degradation. It should cover implementation and take into account the multidimensional nature of poverty and the need to guarantee that the post-2015 development framework would be an agenda for all.

109. The protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants, indigenous people, boys and girls, persons with disabilities, women and all vulnerable groups should remain core components of the agenda. Work should be done to reach firm agreements on means of implementation of the new agenda, monitoring and accountability. The role of the United Nations as the source of support and follow-up to national and international efforts should be enhanced.

110. The outcomes of other processes should feed into the work towards a summit at the level of Heads of State and Government in September 2015 for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. Other relevant outcomes would include the Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention to take place in December in Lima and the Conference on Financing for Development. The latter ought to continue to draw in the relevant actors and maintain its holistic character, which was based on the complementarity of the commitments contained in the agendas of the developing and developed countries. The synthesis report of the Secretary-General and lessons learned from processes both within and outside the United Nations, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, were also relevant. Topics relevant to the definition of a comprehensive agenda included food, health, education, housing and urban settlements. Mexico would continue to voice its commitment to preventing the degradation of ecosystems and conserving biodiversity.

111. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that the goals and targets to be finalized as part of the post-2015 development agenda should be ambitious but realistic. Ensuring the success of the third International Conference on Financing for Development would not be an easy task. Additional resources would be required for the new goals and development agenda. All relevant questions, including how and where to

obtain those resources, must be answered before the new development agenda was adopted.

112. The interests of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, should be kept in mind in developing the post-2015 development agenda. The design, structure and choice of goals must be in line with what developing countries wanted to achieve. The principle of common but differentiated responsibility must be applied and different national circumstances, capacities and priorities taken into account.

113. Malaysia was on track to achieve or exceed almost all of the eight MDGs by 2015 and had thus shifted its focus to becoming a high-income nation by 2020. Malaysia was deeply concerned over other countries' uneven progress on the MDGs, especially among the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States.

114. South-South cooperation was vital to international cooperation for development. It was essential for national and collective self-reliance, contributing to the effective integration and participation of developing countries in the world economy. Such cooperation should not be viewed as a substitute to North-South cooperation, but should instead complement it.

115. **Mr. Minami** (Japan) said that in his recent address before the General Assembly, the Prime Minister of Japan had said that cultivating a sense of ownership and encouraging self-help efforts were the most important aspects of addressing poverty. Of course, people should also be protected and empowered. Empowering women would be a significant part of efforts to ensure human security.

116. His delegation expected the synthesis report from the Secretary-General to be a comprehensive, ambitious document encompassing all inputs to the post-2015 development agenda, upon which the intergovernmental negotiations could build. The inputs from the Open Working Group, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts and others were all of equal importance and should be considered holistically during the next phase. Coherence and coordination between the processes of the post-2015 development agenda and financing for development must be encouraged, with duplication of effort minimized. Most important, the Committee should not prejudice the outcome of those processes.

117. Japan would host the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March 2015. The outcome of the Conference would be a significant contribution to the post-2015 development agenda.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.