

**General Assembly**

Sixty-ninth session

Official Records

Distr.: General  
19 December 2014

Original: English

---

**Second Committee****Summary record of the 19th meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 22 October 2014, at 3 p.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Stepowska (Vice-Chair) . . . . . (Poland)**Contents**Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

- (a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*)
- (b) Industrial development cooperation (*continued*)
- (c) Women in development (*continued*)

---

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Control Unit (srcorrections@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

14-63128 (E)



Please recycle



*In the absence of Mr. Cardi (Italy), Ms. Stepowska (Poland), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

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

**Agenda item 23: Eradication of poverty and other development issues** (*continued*) (A/69/223)

- (a) **Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)** (*continued*) (A/69/204, A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)
- (b) **Industrial development cooperation** (*continued*) (A/69/331, A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)
- (c) **Women in development** (*continued*) (A/69/156, A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)

1. **Mr. Elnor** (Sudan) said that the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty had failed to reduce poverty levels in all countries. Indeed, poverty had actually worsened in certain States, particularly among women and children. Persistent poverty and food insecurity in some countries, together with rising unemployment levels, highlighted the need for enhanced international cooperation with a view to mobilizing the necessary resources so that all developing countries could achieve their national goals and promote prosperity and equal opportunity. The international community must adopt a coordinated approach that addressed the root causes of poverty, and more balanced and equitable relations between countries were needed to address pressing challenges such as climate change. In that connection, it was vital that developed countries honoured their commitments towards developing countries so that they could create decent jobs for all their citizens and improve living standards. Developed countries must also remove the obstacles impeding developing countries' access to global markets so that they could participate fully in the global economy.

2. To accelerate growth and combat poverty, Sudan was striving to attract foreign investment in the industrial, agricultural and services sectors, improve the country's public services, create work opportunities and establish social safety nets. His Government was also facilitating access to microloans for the most marginalized and poorest sectors of society, including displaced persons, and in view of the key role that women played in fostering development, was implementing policies to enhance the status of women

and facilitate their access to the labour market. In that connection, Sudan urged the international community to redouble its efforts to promote women's empowerment in developing countries, particularly in rural areas.

3. Poverty levels were rising in Sudan because of a number of complex and related factors, including the abandonment of traditional agriculture, inadequate social safety nets, land degradation, population growth, conflicts and the impact of globalization. All those factors were exacerbated by the lack of an effective global partnership for development and the economic blockade imposed on the country, which had seriously undermined economic development. Unless the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on Sudan were lifted and steps taken to reduce its external debt burden, it would be extremely difficult for the country to combat poverty and achieve its development goals.

4. **Mr. Narang** (India) said that impressive progress had been made towards eradicating poverty. The Millennium Development Goal on extreme poverty and hunger had been achieved ahead of schedule and poverty rates in South Asia had fallen by 30 per cent between 1981 and 2010. However, progress had been uneven within and among countries and more than 1.2 billion people, equivalent to more than twice the population of Europe, continued to live in poverty. At current rates, more than 970 million people would still be trapped in poverty in 2015. It was therefore disconcerting that certain stakeholders were calling for the new development agenda to move beyond poverty eradication. Instead, India believed that further efforts were needed to eradicate poverty worldwide within a single generation. The needs and concerns of the world's poor must be placed at the core of the new development agenda, and rapid and sustained inclusive growth should be made that agenda's overarching objective.

5. The remarkable progress achieved in Asia in terms of poverty reduction was due to sustained, labour-intensive growth in highly productive manufacturing and service sectors. Therefore, the prospect of stagnating growth rates and stubbornly high unemployment rates did not augur well for the global fight against poverty. The international community must ensure that the global recovery was sustained and take action to accelerate global growth rates. Faster growth and inclusion were interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Policies to foster inclusive growth and create jobs must be implemented in tandem with

investments in human capital and skills development. Investments in infrastructure and agriculture to raise productivity and in financial inclusion to promote ownership of assets by the poor were just as important for sustainable development as investments in social infrastructure, education, health and safety nets. The international community, including international financial institutions, must assist developing countries in those policy imperatives.

6. India had implemented targeted measures to promote faster and inclusive growth and promote skill development and industrial transformation. Furthermore, with a view to breaking the vicious circle of poverty and debt and promoting entrepreneurship, India had launched the National Mission on Financial Inclusion to enhance financial literacy, open a bank account for every Indian household and ensure that all Indians enjoyed access to banking services, including overdraft facilities. India was also committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, which could have a multiplier effect in the development process. Indeed, strengthening women's participation in decision-making and policy formulation, improving women's literacy, enhancing women's access to productive resources and opportunities, and investing in women's health and nutrition significantly enhanced sustained economic growth and reduced poverty. Enabling technologies, in particular information and communications technologies (ICT), should also be utilized for the empowerment of women.

7. **Mr. Emvula** (Namibia) said that the eradication of poverty was the greatest challenge facing humanity and must be addressed effectively in the post-2015 development agenda. The formulation of that agenda would necessitate the adoption of a coherent and integrated approach that took into account countries' particular conditions, policies and priorities, and relevant lessons learned, including in the context of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It was also important that the unfinished business of the MDGs remained an integral part of that process. To ensure that the gains made on poverty eradication were irreversible, concerted efforts were needed to address global environmental challenges, particularly as it was the poor themselves who suffered most from droughts, floods and other environmental disasters.

8. The eradication of poverty was critically linked to sustainable development and must remain central in

the planning and implementation of the sustainable development goals. Poverty eradication policies must address both national and international challenges. Supportive, fair and enabling economic and financial mechanisms and a genuine global partnership for sustainable development were therefore crucial to complement the efforts of national governments. Moreover, global trade and investment rules must take into account the constraints faced by developing countries, whose participation in international financial institutions must be strengthened to ensure that their voices were heard. Namibia therefore welcomed the spirit of openness and transparency in the consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, which had enabled developing countries to take ownership of the process.

9. Although African economies were growing at approximately 6 per cent per year, growth rates of at least 7 per cent were needed if African countries were to achieve the MDGs. Job creation in Africa also remained weak and energy expenses consumed a significant portion of available financial resources. Recent financial volatility clearly showed that reform of the global financial system was urgently needed to address global imbalances and give developing countries a greater say in global economic governance. Efforts must be made to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, as the advancement of women could also advance socioeconomic development.

10. **Mr. Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that, like many developing countries, his country faced challenges in its efforts to formulate policies and programmes on poverty, inequality, social exclusion and other key issues. Those issues should be tackled by adopting a collaborative approach that involved Governments, the private sector and civil society. It was also important to involve women in development efforts and promote industrial development cooperation, which could provide support to domestic poverty eradication initiatives. Moreover, the formulation and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda would require the availability of comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date statistical information; developing countries must therefore be provided with capacity-building and technical assistance so that they could strengthen their data collection and management systems.

11. Through its National Social Development Programme and other initiatives, Trinidad and Tobago provided social services to poor and vulnerable groups,

including older persons, children, persons with disabilities and victims of natural disasters. Furthermore, the Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme promoted nutritional and food security among vulnerable households and the Micro Enterprise and Training grant was offered to individuals who wished to open small businesses or learn new skills.

12. Trinidad and Tobago, a small island developing State that was particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, was one of the most industrialized economies in the Caribbean subregion. It was therefore especially mindful of the need to safeguard the environment while promoting industrial development and commended efforts by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to delink industrial development from environmental degradation and promote the use and development of environmentally-friendly technologies.

13. To sustain economic growth and further its poverty eradication efforts, Trinidad and Tobago was striving to diversify its economy, inter alia, by providing training and financial support to entrepreneurs to help them establish successful small enterprises and microenterprises. Trinidad and Tobago was also striving to promote women's empowerment, bridge the gender-based digital divide and foster the emergence of a knowledge-based economy in which women participated fully. To encourage girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of information and communications technology, Trinidad and Tobago held an annual Women and Girls in Information and Communication Technologies Forum to mark the International Telecommunications Union International Girls in ICT Day.

14. **Ms. al-Fadalah** (Qatar) said that, in order to eradicate poverty, the international community must focus on all three dimensions of sustainable development. In the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, both domestic policies and international cooperation should give priority to providing decent work for all their citizens, including young people. The Decade placed particular focus on fostering comprehensive and sustainable development, which should lie at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda. In the implementation of that agenda, States must build on the lessons they had learned in the implementation of the MDGs and through their efforts to mitigate the repercussions of the international economic and financial crisis. They

must also combat inequality, food insecurity and environmental degradation and must give priority attention to enhancing agricultural productivity and improving rural livelihoods.

15. Qatar firmly believed that women could play a key role in promoting development. It made every effort to promote women's empowerment and safeguard and strengthen their rights, and was committed to working with relevant stakeholders to combat all forms of gender-based discrimination. To that end, Qatar had hosted the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the advancement of Women in 2012. Qatar emphasized, however, that women's empowerment could only be achieved if States implemented appropriate policies to strengthen the family: women and families could promote social, economic and cultural development and could therefore play a leading role in eliminating poverty, strengthening social integration and creating decent work opportunities. In line with its religious, moral and cultural values, and within the context of the Qatar National Vision 2030, her country was striving to ensure that women contributed fully to the country's development and could participate fully in society, including in the workplace and in politics. Qatar had achieved the MDG on universal primary education in 2008 and the country's female enrolment rates in higher education were among the highest in the region. Qatar had also made significant progress in improving women's health and combating early marriage. It had been ranked 36th globally, and first in the Arab world, in the 2013 Human Development Index, while the quality of its education system had been ranked tenth globally in the World Economic Forum 2013-2014 Global Competitiveness Report.

16. **Mr. Henry Alfredo Suárez Moreno** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had been uneven across different regions of the world and the international community therefore needed to redouble its efforts to eliminate poverty and hunger. According to the Human Development Report 2014 of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 15 per cent of the world's population remained vulnerable to multidimensional poverty and 80 per cent lacked comprehensive social protection. Around half of the world's labour force held informal or precarious jobs, contrary to the goals of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the area of safe and decent

work. Poverty was complex, and tackling it required a multidimensional approach. Poverty should not be defined on the basis of income levels alone; successful anti-poverty strategies in many developing countries, including the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, had shown the limits of a strictly economics-based approach. Hundreds of thousands of people in his country enjoyed free health care, inexpensive or free food, below-market interest rates on loans and other benefits in addition to the daily minimum wage. Those poverty eradication indicators, which had been so useful to his Government, might be applied at the global level as well.

17. Education was fundamental to lifting people out of poverty, as it opened up greater opportunities for productive employment and decent work, in particular for young people. Universal access to basic social protection for vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities was equally important to that end. Policies were also in place to boost agricultural productivity and food security in poor rural communities; promote small and medium-sized enterprises; and grant loans to small farmers and entrepreneurs.

18. **Mr. Salih** (Iraq) said that his country's delegation welcomed efforts by UNIDO to accelerate industrial development in developing countries. Developed countries must make a firm commitment to help developing countries build strong and sustainable industrial sectors. Partnerships with global industrial enterprises could also help developing countries promote inclusive industrial development, and South-South cooperation, which should complement traditional North-South cooperation, could also support efforts to that end.

19. Iraq was striving to enhance its industrial productivity and competitiveness, including by providing financial, technical and logistical support to a key group of industries, and firmly believed that the private sector could play a major role in fostering growth. His Government had increased the number of licences it granted to entrepreneurs wishing to establish small and medium-sized enterprises and provided concessionary loans to help them get started. Industrial growth had accelerated in Iraq in recent years, generating significant job opportunities for the country's citizens. Iraq was now seeking to boost the profitability of public enterprises, restructure companies to enhance their competitiveness, strengthen its banking sector so

that it was more responsive to the needs of industry, and create a more business-friendly environment with a view to attracting additional domestic and foreign direct investment.

20. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe) said that poverty eradication remained the single greatest challenge facing humanity. About half the world's population lacked access to adequate food, health care, energy, clean water, sanitation, housing and other basic necessities. Poverty eradication and sustainable development must therefore remain the central and overarching objectives of the post-2015 development agenda. It was also of the utmost importance that the global media reported on poverty issues, especially those affecting people in the developing world: poverty and its eradication must be seen as newsworthy.

21. To combat poverty, Zimbabwe had adopted policies and programmes to economically empower its citizens, including a historic land reform programme that had provided land to some 300,000 households. In particular, the programme had enabled some 100,000 people to become tobacco farmers. As a result, tobacco production had increased to over 200 million kilogrammes, boosting farmers' incomes and allowing thousands of people to escape poverty. The programme had helped promote sustained economic growth and development, expanded the middle class, reduced economic inequality, fostered prosperity, enhanced food and nutritional security, raised living standards and brought many more people into the formal economy.

22. Agriculture was a key pillar of the Zimbabwean economy and, in a good agricultural season, contributed some 30 per cent of the country's GDP. Agriculture also contributed over 40 per cent of the country's export earnings, 60 per cent of the raw materials needed by its agro-based industries and 43 per cent of the country's jobs and the Government was striving to further increase agricultural production and productivity through mechanization and irrigation development programmes.

23. Zimbabwe called for the early conclusion of the Doha Round and believed that a free, transparent, rules-based and open trading system would help alleviate global poverty, improve living standards and generate higher economic growth and development in developing countries. The integration of developing countries into the global multilateral trading system should therefore be a key priority of the post-2015 development agenda.

Furthermore, economic transformation was critical to achieving sustained inclusive growth and job creation in developing countries; the Southern African Development Community had therefore prioritized industrialization, infrastructure development, beneficiation and value addition as regional development priorities, and development partners were urged to invest in Zimbabwe so that it could successfully transition from an exporter of raw materials to a country that produced higher-margin products. Zimbabwe also called for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the sanctions imposed on the country by the European Union and the United States of America, and emphasized that those sanctions were severely hampering the country's efforts to alleviate poverty.

24. **Ms. El Midaoui** (Morocco) said that the debate on poverty eradication and other development-related issues illustrated that the world must join forces to enable all countries to take advantage of development opportunities and benefit from the fruits of globalization. Her country had launched a national human development initiative that, among others things, aimed to combat poverty in rural areas and social exclusion in urban areas, promote job security and improve the standard of living in landlocked and mountainous provinces and communities. A national human development observatory had been established to assess the impact of public policies on human development indicators. It was consistent with the principles of good governance because it encompassed public administration, parliament and civil society representatives.

25. Other initiatives to combat poverty and vulnerability included a programme that transferred money directly to needy families as long as they kept their children in school, and a medical assistance regime for the poor who were not covered by mandatory health insurance. More than 4.5 million people, 55.3 per cent of them women and 46.9 per cent between 30 and 49 years of age, had benefited from loans from microcredit agencies, thereby boosting job creation and reducing poverty.

26. **Mr. Manongi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the fight against poverty was far from over: 1 billion people remained trapped in poverty worldwide and many who had witnessed improvements in their living standards in recent years were in danger of slipping back into poverty. Poverty eradication must remain a key objective for the international community

and must be made an overarching goal of the post-2015 development agenda. The new agenda must address the unfinished business of the MDGs, build on the lessons learned in the implementation of those Goals and address new and emerging challenges in a sustainable and integrated manner.

27. The proposed sustainable development goals had recognized that low incomes constituted only one aspect of poverty. In parallel with their efforts to boost incomes, States must address deprivation related to health, education, food security, nutrition, employment, women's empowerment and personal security. Furthermore, the international community must help create decent livelihood opportunities for the poor; combat chronic inequality and marginalization both within and among countries; ensure universal access to water and modern energy sources; promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies; and ensure equitable and secure access for both men and women to productive assets, markets and agricultural inputs and services, including financial services.

28. It was unacceptable that maternal and infant mortality rates in developing countries remained shockingly high. Indeed, the death of a child in a remote African village was just as tragic as the death of a child in New York City. Similarly, it was incomprehensible that more than 1 billion people remained illiterate and practiced open defecation. Immediate action by States, acting both independently and collectively, was therefore required to facilitate access by the poor to critical health care, education and other services. Commitments made to developing countries must be fulfilled and immediate action taken to remove the impediments hindering developing countries' efforts to improve the lives of their citizens.

29. States must give particular attention to the fact that three quarters of those trapped in extreme poverty lived in rural areas. Rural poverty fuelled migration to urban areas, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and was accelerating the growth of slums where people lacked access to many basic services, including clean drinking water and sanitation. Although it was widely acknowledged that the battle to achieve global sustainable development would be won or lost in cities, urbanization was no panacea to the challenges facing developing countries. Tanzania and other developing countries were also investing in rural areas to accelerate rural development. For example, to

discourage charcoal production in rural areas, which caused widespread negative environmental and social repercussions, his Government was working with communities, civil society, and local and international partners to find alternative, sustainable livelihoods for charcoal makers and promote the use of alternative fuel sources in cities and towns.

30. **Ms. Luna Camacho** (Mexico) called for a rethink of the way poverty was approached. Economic growth was important to reducing poverty but it also had to be sustained, equitable and inclusive; inequality undermined the poverty-reducing effects of growth. In the context of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Mexico had pushed for a multidimensional vision of poverty that looked beyond measurements of per capita income. The new goals and the post-2015 development agenda had to be based on equality of access to education, health care, employment and social protection, and on the exercise of personal and collective rights. Her delegation supported data disaggregation in the monitoring of the sustainable development goals with a view to reducing economic, social and environmental inequalities and ensuring that the agenda served everyone. The type of policies that were needed included income protection programmes, as well as provision of greater access to health, education and nutrition services through programmes such as the crusade against hunger. The post-2015 development agenda should promote inclusive and sustained growth and increased productivity. Furthermore, broader social protection would improve resilience. The transition of jobs from the informal to the formal sectors should also be promoted.

31. **Mr. Golitsyn** (Ukraine) welcomed all national initiatives by Member States within the framework of the United Nations system-wide plan of action for the implementation of the Second Decade to ensure full employment and decent work for all. Any international programme to eradicate poverty could be effective only with greater national efforts, policies and strategies. Having placed poverty eradication at the centre of its policy agenda and despite the conflict in two eastern regions of the country, Ukraine had implemented a national poverty eradication programme that had resulted in a fivefold reduction in the rate of absolute poverty. Social policies were being shaped that maximized employment potential and eliminated social exclusion in order to lower the relative poverty rate of 24.3 per cent. The support of national and international

partners that were involved in that process was highly appreciated. UNDP contributed to a Ukrainian project on social sector reform and another initiative was aimed at achieving the MDGs through enhanced monitoring, planning and mainstreaming into sectoral strategies.

32. Aspiring to make decent work an achievable reality for young people, Ukraine had devised an initiative to strengthen capacity for youth development so that 6.25 million Ukrainians between 15 and 24 years of age were well prepared to enter the national labour market. Convinced that the advancement of women was critically important, Ukraine had made great progress in implementing European standards of equality in the workplace, developing women's leadership skills and promoting a culture of gender equality. Steps had also been taken to ensure that the needs of men and women were considered equally in the national budget.

33. A people-centred approach was fundamental to the success of any effort to eradicate poverty. It was imperative to empower those living in poverty through education and training and to combat inequality and exclusion to create a level playing field for all.

34. **Ms. Adhikari** (Nepal) said that poverty was a multidimensional and billions of people were on the threshold of poverty due to potential disasters, shocks and dangers posed by climate. It was important to accelerate progress on the MDGs and include poverty eradication at the core of the post-2015 development agenda, making use of lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs and from the repercussions of the global economic and financial crisis.

35. Although Nepal, a landlocked developing country, had made progress in reducing extreme poverty, nearly 7 million people there still fell into that category, and inequalities between the rich and poor and the urban and rural environments were widening. Industrialization, and its use of science and innovation, had the potential to eradicate poverty and contribute to sustained and inclusive economic growth. The least developed countries, including Nepal, therefore, needed modern technology to boost socioeconomic development. Widening socioeconomic inequalities such as unemployment and discriminatory laws, however, were impeding the advancement of women, particularly in the least developed countries, and, in so

doing, were preventing gender equality from contributing to sustained economic growth and poverty eradication. Nepal was thus committed to ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women.

36. Nepalese policies were sustainable and inclusive, facilitated equitable growth and employment and were designed to build capacity across sectors of the economy and resilience against shocks such as climate change. However, more predictable, enhanced and sustained financial and technological support from partners was needed. Nepal was grateful to the five donor countries which had met the target for official development assistance (ODA) and called on other members of the international community to honour their commitments without delay. It valued assistance in the form of debt relief, market access, capacity-building and technology support. Ultimately, poverty eradication had to be a concerted, multi-stakeholder endeavour that took into account the challenges faced by the world's weakest and most vulnerable societies such as least developed countries and landlocked developing countries.

37. **Mr. Fondukov** (Russian Federation) welcomed the success that the international community had achieved in tackling poverty but said that it was necessary to continue efforts to balance out progress in that regard between different States and regions. Poverty eradication and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth had to be adequately reflected in the future development agenda.

38. The Russian Federation was stepping up its fight against poverty and had, unilaterally and in conjunction with international organizations, implemented programmes concerning, among other things, agriculture and water management and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to create conditions for development in a number of States.

39. Referring to the UNIDO Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development, he said that industrial development was a key factor in poverty eradication and that UNIDO would provide States with necessary support, such as knowledge transfer and advice on industrial policy, in order to achieve sustainable industrial development. For its part, the Russian Federation was working with UNIDO to implement a number of major industrial development projects totalling \$5 million and called on all interested parties to expand cooperation within

UNIDO, which was a forum where information and trends regarding industrial development strategies and best practice could be shared.

40. **Mr. Chinyonga** (Zambia) said that, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), an estimated 791 million people in developing countries had been categorized as chronically hungry between 2012 and 2014. The task of eradicating extreme poverty, therefore, required global action and practical measures that encompassed environmental, economic and social policies so that developing countries could achieve the internationally agreed poverty-related goals and targets. Sustainability was a dimension of Zambian policies on investment in sectors that promoted employment, increased productivity, contributed to better and inclusive economic growth and developed rural areas.

41. A number of steps had been taken to eradicate hunger and extreme poverty in the country through improvements to social protection. A cash transfer scheme was helping 145,000 people, 80 per cent of whom were women, and would be continued in 2015. Other support was offered through a variety of programmes concerning, among other things, food security, medical grants and student bursaries.

42. Women had an important role to play in the fight against poverty and, for that reason, financial lending institutions in Zambia were supporting women entrepreneurs through access to affordable financing. In addition, a range of economic empowerment initiatives and funds had resources to help not only women but also young people.

43. Zambia sought to boost rural industry and transform its economy by focusing on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. An industrialization and job creation strategy was designed to create 1 million formal jobs over the coming five years in agriculture, construction, manufacturing and tourism. Those sectors would support value addition, industrialization and the development of human capital.

44. **Ms. Myat** (Myanmar) said that progress in the reduction of poverty remained uneven and the number of poor people in some parts of the world was increasing. To make further progress, efforts must be stepped up and the eradication of extreme poverty must remain an overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda. Myanmar had taken measures to graduate from the least developed country category but



called on development partners to fulfil their ODA commitments so that least developed countries could implement the Istanbul Programme of Action in an effective and timely manner.

45. Myanmar sought to achieve a vibrant and socially-inclusive economy and aimed to reduce the rate of poverty to 16 per cent by 2015. Since the majority of the population lived in rural areas, however, the fulfilment of such objectives was dependent on rural development. A number of key tasks had been identified to that end, including the development of agricultural productivity, livestock and fisheries, small-scale rural productivity, rural socioeconomics and energy, microfinance institutions, cooperative tasks and environmental conservation. The transformation of agriculture into an agro-based industry was of particular importance because the rural population derived their livelihood from that sector. Investment in agricultural infrastructure was encouraged and farmland continued to be distributed to landless farmers as an effective measure to alleviate poverty.

46. Economic policies had to be consistent with other policies to address social and environmental realities and States such as Myanmar, which was multi-ethnic, had to narrow development gaps in order to foster national unity. Equitable development would foster balanced and equitable growth and create equal economic and social opportunities for all populations in Myanmar.

47. Given that employment was a key driver of poverty eradication, the United Nations must strengthen system-wide policy coherence on poverty and employment issues within the framework of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. His delegation wished to reaffirm the ASEAN position that regional institutions had scope for helping to accelerate efforts to raise people from poverty. Myanmar remained ready to cooperate with the international community to eradicate poverty and achieve development goals.

48. **Mr. Simati** (Tuvalu) said that poverty eradication and sustainable development were moral objectives and shared responsibilities. The MDGs had fostered sustainability and efficiency, inspiring everyone to take greater responsibility for their actions and be more conscious of the environment. Successes in that regard must be replicated and complemented with new

frameworks for unique contexts and evolving circumstances.

49. Economic gaps between rich and poor countries and inequalities within States had to be addressed in such a way as to make global wealth and global income more evenly distributed and to promote equity and cooperation through human development and empowerment and through investment in trade. Strategies to respond to the specific poverty needs of States must be contextualized; thus, United Nations responses to small island developing States must be designed to deal meaningfully with their unique issues.

50. Partnerships for sustainable development and poverty alleviation were built on commitments from both donors and recipients but they must also be flexible and facilitate dialogue. The voices and views of poor people, local communities, civil society, women and youth had to be considered.

51. As science, research and entrepreneurial development were key drivers of poverty eradication and sustainable development, the nexus between public bodies, research institutions and entrepreneurs should be enhanced. Information should be accessible and affordable and could be shared by effectively using digital services such as online libraries. There was also a link between poverty alleviation and environmental protection and other development policies such as health service improvement, literacy-building and job creation, which were mutually reinforcing.

52. The diminished role of morality and ethics in global financial institutions had to be redressed through vigorous financial governance and monitoring so that poorer countries and people were not impacted by the consequences of a global financial crisis once again. Climate shocks and the scarcity of vital resources caused by unsustainable development and excessive production and consumption patterns also had to be addressed through the promotion of green growth and jobs, coupled with a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

53. Although the poor in general suffered the most from unsound ecological practices, all the people of Tuvalu were directly threatened by sea-level rise, complicating the Tuvaluan development agenda and stretching budgets. In that context, sea level rise was not only a developmental concern but also a question of human rights.

54. **Mr. Ong Kok Wee** (Singapore) said that the progress that had been achieved in the fight against poverty illustrated what the international community could accomplish if sustained attention was given to poverty eradication. Nevertheless, much remained to be done given that progress on poverty reduction was uneven and that there was a sense that income inequality was widening across the world despite fairly robust rates of economic growth. It was increasingly recognized that growth had to be inclusive and should benefit all segments of society. It was therefore encouraging that proposed sustainable development goal 1 was dedicated to the eradication of poverty. Achieving that goal would require not only sustained effort and hard work but an approach by each Member State that reflected its own circumstances and priorities.

55. The most sustainable way to help the lower income group was through the creation of good-quality jobs, which, in turn, relied on economic growth. The creation of productive employment and decent work, therefore, should be at the centre of a policy framework for sustained, inclusive and equitable growth. It was also important to focus on opportunities. In that regard, the Singaporean education system sought to ensure that all children received the skills and training to pursue their aspirations. Equal outcomes could not be guaranteed but equal opportunities could be provided. Similarly, programmes and incentives were used to help Singaporeans in employment to develop skills in order to acquire better-paid jobs.

56. While each country had to chart its own development, international cooperation could support national efforts. Singapore focused its international contribution on areas where it could best add value and share its development experience and expertise. It trained close to 7,000 governmental officials from other countries in over 300 courses annually and provided international technical assistance under its Third Country Training Programmes.

57. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that the adoption of the MDGs helped to strengthen the consensus within the international community that poverty was a challenge that could be effectively addressed only through the collective efforts of all the nations of the world. Regrettably, however, poverty continued to be a deplorable reality in most developing countries, was the ultimate systemic threat to global

peace and security, and impeded sustainable development.

58. Mozambique prioritized poverty eradication in its approach to national development through policies that promoted sustainable economic growth, improved social protection, enhanced good governance and had a say in decision-making processes. As a result, Mozambique had relatively strong economic growth with low levels of inflation for a decade and was thus encouraged to redouble its efforts to achieve the goal of poverty eradication.

59. Efforts to address the challenges caused by poverty included a presidential initiative that supported food production, job creation and the capacity-building of young people. Empowerment was underpinned by the decentralization of decision-making in areas such as the allocation of human and financial resources and that had resulted in more qualified civil servants working in local government and local authorities taking more decisions on local issues. Greater agricultural production, a growing number of artisanal industries and greater monetary circulation, particularly in rural areas, constituted additional proof that decentralization and empowerment were an efficient and inclusive approach to poverty eradication.

60. Mozambique recognized that the socioeconomic integration of women was a determinant factor of poverty eradication and, accordingly, it included gender issues in its poverty eradication strategy. It sought to increase girls' access to education, offer literacy classes to a greater number of women, enhance technical and vocational training for women, expand women's sexual and reproductive health services, improve responses to HIV/AIDS and combat forced and early marriages and underage pregnancies.

61. As a result of its efforts, Mozambique was among the countries that would most likely achieve the majority of the MDGs and was fully committed to working with all relevant partners to achieve the internationally agreed development goals.

62. **Mr. Vichaidit** (Thailand) said that it was important to remain fully focused on the MDGs, including the unrealized goals, as discussions on the post-2015 development agenda progressed, but there were four points that were fundamental to poverty eradication and the way forward. Firstly, poverty eradication had to be the overarching goal of the post-2015 development agenda. In that connection, he

welcomed proposed sustainable development goal 1. Thailand had achieved the target of halving its poverty rate and was now seeking to achieve the MDGs Plus target of reducing the poverty rate to below 4 per cent. The success Thailand had recorded in poverty eradication was linked to the implementation of universal health coverage, which had benefited the poor and vulnerable in particular. The elimination of catastrophic health expenditure reassured and empowered many people, improving the health and productivity of the population.

63. Secondly, the empowerment of the vulnerable ensured sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth. Since in many countries, poor and vulnerable people lived in rural or remote areas, sustainable rural development must be strengthened. Thailand focused on sustainable agriculture in a number of ways, including through the sustainable use of natural resources and the incorporation of science, technology and innovation. In addition, by promoting full employment and decent work for all, particularly among young people, income gaps across the population could be reduced. To prevent any reversal of the progress made in the eradication of poverty, however, the post-2015 development agenda and responses to climate change had to emphasize resilience and disaster risk reduction.

64. Thirdly, a rights-based approach to poverty eradication must be adopted to ensure that equality and equity were upheld through good governance, the rule of law, transparency and accountability. The promotion and protection of women's rights, including political participation, was a priority in Thailand. Greater opportunities for women had been provided, including knowledge and entrepreneurship development and improved social protection.

65. Lastly, the efforts of States to fulfil their development objectives could be enhanced through global partnerships, including technology transfer and financial assistance for countries such as the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Through South-South and triangular cooperation in the fields of agriculture, education and health, Thailand had provided assistance to countries not only within its region but also those in Africa and Latin America.

66. **Ms. Anate** (Togo) said that there were more economically active women than men in Togo but they

occupied minor roles in various sectors. They lacked access to resources and economic and social opportunities and did not benefit from social redistribution to the same extent as men. Togo had therefore taken a number of steps to empower women, particularly those in rural settings.

67. For instance, in a project for rural women's groups, around 45,000 women had received assistance. Equipment such as mills, pumps and oil presses had been made available to them and they had received training in such areas as managing cooperatives, crop and livestock production, agro-food processing, finance management and business development.

68. Action had also been taken to make financial services more accessible, particularly for women. In 2014, the Government had introduced a fund to enhance the financial and operational capacities of financial service providers and to help 2 million people over five years through job creation and other income-generation activities. A financial underwriting system had been established and credit lines had been made available for financial institutions so that consumers could access products that were priced more attractively.

69. Those efforts sought to ensure that microfinance programmes prioritized savings products that were secure, practical and accessible for women and that helped them keep control over their savings. Another fund had been launched to alleviate the poverty of the most vulnerable sectors of society, including women, and to encourage them to start income-generation activities. All such measures were testament to the ambition of Togo to achieve gender equality. The development partners that provided support in that endeavour were greatly appreciated.

70. **Mr. Annakao** (Libya) said that poverty, the greatest challenge facing the international community, was a multidimensional phenomenon. It was vital that policies to combat poverty focused not only on raising incomes, but also on ensuring that the rights of the poor, including their rights to health care, education and social services, were fully upheld. Although poverty levels were falling globally, chronic poverty remained a pressing concern, particularly in Africa. Furthermore, inequality within and among countries was increasing, developed States had reduced their ODA, and negotiations had stalled on a new international trade agreement that would help to reduce

poverty. Further national and international efforts were needed to combat rising unemployment, provide decent work for all, and ensure that all developing countries finally eradicated poverty and achieved their sustainable development objectives.

71. With the 2015 deadline fast approaching, States must make a final push to make as much progress as possible towards the achievement of the outstanding MDGs. Poverty eradication must, moreover, lie at the heart of the post-2015 developing agenda, and, in the implementation of that new agenda, the international community must apply lessons learned in the implementation of the MDGs and in dealing with the repercussions of the ongoing economic and financial crisis. States' policies to combat poverty must be commensurate to the challenges they faced, exploit national and global development opportunities, and fully address the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development.

72. Certain States were not doing enough to uphold the rights of women, and progress towards the achievement of the MDG on gender equality remained slow. Natural disasters, armed conflicts and economic crises had a disproportionate impact on women, who were often expected to shoulder great responsibility in their communities. It was crucial that women were fully empowered to play an effective role in development. Efforts to combat illiteracy among women and girls in developing countries were especially needed. Sustainable development would not be possible unless further steps were taken to promote women's empowerment, which must be made one of the core themes of the post-2015 development agenda. Libya had taken concrete action to enhance the status of women in recent years and had adopted a number of legal instruments to promote equality and equal opportunity, including in areas such as health, education and social services. Women had the right to own and manage businesses, and men and women were guaranteed equal pay for equal work. Women held 32 of the 200 seats in the House of Representatives, and six seats in the Constitutional Drafting Assembly. Women were also actively involved in non-governmental and civil society organizations, which had only recently emerged in Libya and were making a positive contribution to Libya's new democratic landscape.

73. **Ms. Bibalou** (Gabon) said that a billion people still lived in extreme poverty, with women and children particularly affected. Many more lived barely above

the poverty line. The international community had to step up its efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms by means of a multidimensional approach that promoted job creation, especially for young people. Youth unemployment was often the cause of sociopolitical upheavals and it sometimes fuelled extremism. Sustained economic growth and diversification through industrialization, especially in Africa, would promote employment and lift millions out of poverty. Her Government had put in place a strategy to boost youth employment by transitioning from a resource-based to an industrial economy that also provided high added-value services. The current focus of the strategy was on building human capital and improving development infrastructure.

74. The multidimensional approach should also lead to reduced inequality. Women increasingly bore the brunt of poverty because of disparities between men and women, which were exacerbated by cultural and religious factors. Women needed favourable conditions in which to find decent work, and social protection policies should take the special needs of women into account. The post-2015 development agenda should therefore reflect the needs of the most vulnerable, including women, young people, persons with disabilities and the elderly. Her Government had sought to reform the social system and had introduced a new strategy of investment in human resources.

75. The multidimensional approach also took into account new challenges such as climate change. There was a demonstrable link between poverty eradication and environmental conservation, meaning that new, fairer and more sustainable modes of production and consumption had to be found. For that purpose, her country aimed to cut per capita greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2025 and in early 2015, would organize a meeting to work out a climate initiative among countries of the South. In parallel, ecotourism could spur job creation and help protect the environment, especially in rural areas, but it would have to be accompanied by measures to combat poaching and the illicit trade in protected species.

76. **Mr. Sekiguchi** (Japan) said that his country aimed to create a society in which women could shine and had recently hosted the World Assembly for Women to make women's empowerment a reality. Globally, many abhorrent circumstances persisted, with women lacking access to basic services like water and energy. That disproportionately increased their

workload for no other reason than that they had been born female. Human rights violations against women should no longer occur in the twenty-first century and fundamental rights should be guaranteed everywhere. The United Nations and the international community should ensure equal participation of girls and boys in school, medical care for expectant mothers, financial self-reliance for women and freedom from the fear of violence. His country had increased its contributions to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) fivefold and looked forward to the opening of the Tokyo office of UN-Women.

77. Another approach to eliminating gender and income disparities was the promotion of universal health coverage worldwide so that people would have access to essential health services without financial hardship. It was never too early for countries, including low-income countries, to aspire to provide primary health care services, without waiting for economic growth.

78. **Mr. Grima** (Malta) said that women's knowledge and collective action offered the potential to improve resource productivity, efficiency and sustainability and therefore equal opportunities and the empowerment of women were priorities for Malta. The guarantee of women's rights to an adequate standard of living was fundamental to equality and sustainable development and encompassed, *inter alia*, decent work, social protection, sanitation and health. Indeed, that included protection and promotion of the universal rights to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, though any reference, recommendation or commitment in that regard should not oblige any party to consider abortion as a legitimate form of reproductive health, right or commodity. Essential information and services on gender identity, relationships, pregnancies and safe childbirth were being provided free of charge for everyone in Malta.

79. Power imbalances in gender relations and in decision-making prevented women from fully contributing to sustainable development and enjoying its benefits. Malta was committed to increasing the number of women in decision-making positions and continued to support measures to promote gender balance in society. To that end, gender mainstreaming had been adopted in order to tackle the interconnecting

causes that generated unequal relationships between genders in all areas of life.

80. Malta also prioritized the economic independence of women and their increased participation in the labour market. Women were high achievers in the Maltese education sector, particularly in tertiary education, and that was leading to their empowerment. Tax credits, subsidized childcare and paid maternity leave supported women and families while benefitting parents, guardians and the economy.

81. In conclusion, he said that the post-2015 process should address the empowerment and rights of women and girls, gender equality and the prevention of violence against women.

82. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador) said that the global financial and economic crisis had led to slow growth in international trade and more restrictions on international financing, affecting developing countries in particular. The investment of public funds in human development, enhanced access to social services and universal social protection systems was key to poverty eradication. His country had embarked upon a sustainable development-related reform process that tackled poverty, inequality and social injustice, and advocated policies that focused on gender issues and human rights.

83. The proportion of poor households in El Salvador had dropped to 28.9 per cent in 2013 from 40.5 per cent in 2011, in spite of global crises and natural disasters. Another recent advance had been the adoption of a development and social protection act, which for the first time included a network of policies and strategies providing services to the most vulnerable people. He reiterated the importance of adequate means of implementation, and a global partnership for development to promote jobs and decent work for all, as well as to eradicate illiteracy and disease. The multidimensional nature of poverty should be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda. Full employment and decent work were essential components of that approach. As the President of El Salvador had stated in the general debate of the plenary Assembly, only solidarity, respect and equity would make it possible to reduce poverty and social inequalities while enabling families to live healthier and more secure lives.

84. **Mr. Lu Yuhui** (China) said that poverty, one of the most daunting of current challenges, was the

common responsibility of the international community as a whole. The situation around the globe did not warrant optimism since 1 billion people still lived in extreme poverty and over 100 million children suffered from chronic malnutrition. Poverty eradication should therefore be at the core of the post-2015 development agenda. It would be necessary to introduce inclusive social policies, such as social security and health systems, compulsory education, and equal rights and opportunities for women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. Concrete assistance should be provided to developing countries because, for historical reasons, and owing to their baseline conditions, those countries faced the greatest challenges. All countries must work together to establish a rational international economic order with a significantly greater voice for developing countries, and to establish a balanced multilateral trading system, while opposing protectionism in investment and trade.

85. Industrial development cooperation could raise the productivity of developing countries and thus help reduce poverty. China supported the concept of inclusive and sustainable industrial development put forward by UNIDO, and would work with Member States to pursue a path to industrialization that devoted more attention to resource conservation and environmental protection, while harnessing the power of human capital and technology. His Government would enhance its partnership with UNIDO and provide technical assistance to other developing countries. China had already achieved seven of the MDGs, despite a sluggish global recovery and downward pressure on its domestic economy. His Government had lifted 16.5 million people out of poverty in 2013 alone, while developing an environmentally-friendly and resource-efficient model of economic growth. It would continue to implement its national strategy for poverty reduction and development in rural areas for the period 2011-2020.

86. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that, of the two poorest regions in the world, South Asia had reduced the number of poor people and was expected to meet MDG 1, however unevenly, while in sub-Saharan Africa, poverty was still on the rise. The global community would have to work closely to ensure that the projected acceleration of poverty reduction there would meet reality. Unemployment, informal employment and youth unemployment, which could be addressed through education, were major obstacles to

poverty eradication and sustainable growth. Climate change was another key factor; it was estimated that environmental degradation would leave 1.9 billion more people in extreme poverty by 2050. A solid industrial base could go a long way towards poverty eradication, especially in least developed countries, but industrialization required technology transfers, infrastructure and a strong workforce. Bangladesh hoped that the technology bank for least developed countries would be operationalized soon and was willing to host the bank or a regional centre thereof.

87. His country attached great importance to the vital role of women in poverty eradication and development. Since 2009, the number of women entrepreneurs in the country had quadrupled. Women occupied the positions of prime minister, speaker of parliament and leader of the opposition. In local elections, 14,000 women had been elected and the workforce in the garment industry was 90 to 95 per cent female. Gender issues should be comprehensively mainstreamed into the post-2015 development agenda in an effort to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women.

88. **Ms. Kone-Fofana** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that many developing countries would not achieve most of the MDGs. With poverty eradication a serious concern, her Government had been determined to improve social indicators and had adopted a national development plan in 2012. The plan constituted a single strategic framework and included a national employment policy, as well as significant efforts to improve education and health care. As of 2015, schooling would be mandatory for children aged 6 to 16, and enrolment of girls had already increased. A programme to eliminate schoolgirl pregnancies was intended to ensure that girls completed their education on schedule. Mothers and children had access to free health care and children received free malaria treatment up to age 5. Essential drugs were more affordable, and thanks to newly constructed or refurbished medical facilities and recruitment of additional staff, the health care system as a whole had become more sophisticated. The national development plan received support from a presidential programme which had improved the lives of tens of thousands, in particular in rural areas.

89. Women's empowerment was a priority for her Government. Policies were in place to facilitate women's economic integration, uphold their rights and help them acquire real estate and start businesses, in particular through Government-sponsored microloans.

A growing number of women held government jobs. Convinced that subregional and regional integration could contribute to poverty eradication, her Government had launched infrastructure projects such as power grid interconnections with Mali, Guinea and Liberia, as well as road and rail connections with Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Ghana, Niger and Benin. Those international transport connections stimulated trade, industrialization and access to global markets.

90. **Mr. Mangisi** (Tonga) said that the MDGs had been the most successful anti-poverty initiative in history. The term “hardship” more accurately reflected the situation in Tonga than the word “poverty,” as the population generally had access to food and shelter. As a small island developing State with an open economy and a limited resource base, his country was vulnerable to external shocks and had to import a large proportion of its food. His Government had therefore put in place a strategic development framework to promote inclusiveness, create partnerships between the public and private sectors, manage disaster risk and improve macroeconomic and fiscal management. However, development assistance from overseas was the largest source of external financing for his country and was vital to offset his country’s trade deficit, but would have to be coupled with foreign direct investment, trade and development partnerships. His Government was encouraging investment in the private sector as a means of reducing youth unemployment and was also committed to improving women’s participation in both the economy and public life since poverty eradication would not be achievable without women’s full and equal participation. Tonga also looked forward to the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) through genuine partnerships and to the outcome of the third International Conference on Financing for Development.

91. The negative effects of climate change posed a threat to poverty reduction efforts. His country was dependent on the ocean and marine resources, but harmful weather events were increasingly frequent and could potentially reverse development gains. Ecosystem losses could translate directly into economic losses, and poverty eradication could not, therefore, be decoupled from the climate change issue, which disproportionately affected his country. Tonga welcomed, in particular, proposed sustainable development goal 7 on access to sustainable and modern energy, goal 13 on urgent action

to combat climate change, and goal 14 on the conservation of oceans.

93. **Ms. McKenzie** (Canada) said that her delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Peru at the Committee’s 15th meeting on behalf of the Group of Friends of Financial Inclusion.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*